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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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SECOND EXAMINATION INDICATES:

'Allan died of head injury from fall'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A second examination on the skull of then-Commonwealth Casino Commission employee Allan James Boyer Dela Cruz, who was found dead on the ground outside his home on Mt. Tapochau on Capital Hill in 2017, showed no indication of foul play. Instead, the finding is that he died of a head injury from what is being called a "slow fall."

» No signs of foul play

A source, who requested anonymity, disclosed yesterday that forensic anthropologist Dr. Robert Walter Mann examined Dela Cruz's skull last April 8.

When asked about this, Department of Public Safety spokesman Dre Pangelinan said yesterday that he will get back to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting Pangelinan's reply.

The source said that Mann's findings were similar to the earlier determination of Department of Public Safety detectives that Dela Cruz died from a fall or from a slow im-

See ALLAN on Page 4

Osborne: Gala was no fundraiser

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Washington Office director Jason Osborne clarified that the 2017 Asian Pacific American Presidential Inaugural Gala was not a fundraiser or an event for any political action committee or group. Instead, it was their way of celebrating the GOP reclaiming the White House with the victory of then-presidential candidate Donald J. Trump.

Osborne, in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said that he was not directly involved in the preparations for the event and was only added to the organizing committee at the last minute.

"My only job there, since I work for Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, was to take care of the CNMI side for the event. Just like how Juan Carlos Benitez did for Guam or Rep. Amata Radewagen does for American Samoa," he said.

A story published by the

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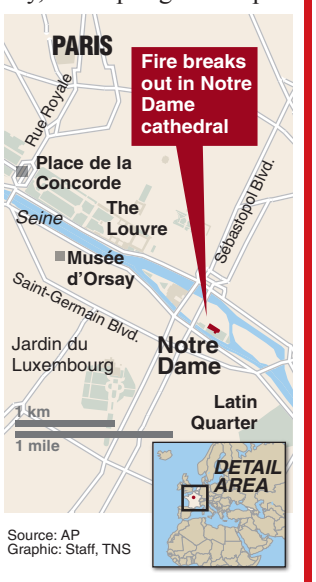
Fire engulfs Notre Dame Cathedral

By LORI HINNANT, SAMUEL PETREQUIN and ELAINE GANLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS (AP)—A massive fire swept across the top of Paris' soaring Notre Dame Cathedral as it was undergoing renovations Monday, collapsing its spire



and threatening one of the world's greatest architectural treasures as tourists and Parisians looked on aghast from the streets below.

The French president pledged to rebuild a cathedral that he called "a part of us," and appealed for national and international

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Flames and smoke rise as the spire on Notre Dame cathedral collapses in Paris, Monday, April 15, 2019. AP

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Local

TSL Foundation donates over $83K worth of laptop bags

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation donated 3,335 laptop bags worth over $83,000 to Public School System and Northern Marianas College students and faculty members and four private schools.

"After Super Typhoon Yutu, a lot of people lost their belongings and these include things that our students and teachers use in school, such as laptop bags," said TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, who, with foundation officials and staff, visited NMC in February, just a few days before the college started its spring semester, to hand over the laptop bags. TanHoldings Corp. is the foundation's parent company.

NMC got 1,417 laptop bags worth $35,425. NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico accepted the bags.

"Our students and faculty are deeply appreciative of TSL Foundation's donation of laptop bags that they can use for their computers and other educational materials," Eliptico said.

Northern Mariana College officials and students, TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, fifth from left front row, TanHoldings vice president Eli Arago, fourth from left front row, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation and TanHoldings Corp. officials pose for a photo in front of the temporary classrooms at NMC's As Terlaje campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"We have a longstanding partnership with the TSL Foundation and when Jerry Tan and his team reached out to us with this significant donation, our employees and students were especially thankful because it was very timely and very much needed," he added.

Another partner of the foundation, PSS, received the donated laptop bags last April 2 at its main office on Capital Hill. Tan turned over the 1,690 Dell brand laptop bags worth $42,250 to Education Commissioner Glenn Muña.

"Our foundation has identified PSS as one of our partners, so every year we think about how we can help PSS and its students and teachers. PSS is such a great group to work with because of how they could easily reach out to the students in all grade levels," Tan added.

This time, the foundation included faculty members as recipients of the donation, Tan said, as a small token of appreciation to these dedicated educators.

"Sometimes, we are so focused to helping our students that we tend to overlook our hardworking faculty members. This donation is our small way of appreciating our teachers and all the faculty members that work with PSS. Thank you for everything that you do for the students and our schools, especially after Yutu. I know you are all doing your

Continued on Next Page

TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan and Education Commissioner Glenn Muña show the laptop bags the Tan Siu Lin Foundation donated to PSS students and faculty members during the turnover ceremony witnessed by PSS faculty members and TSLF officials early this month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña, right, shakes the hand of TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan to thank the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the laptop bags it donated to PSS students and faculty members.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Easter Brunch
The Fiesta Way!
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TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, third from left, joins Tan Siu Lin Foundation officials and Agape Christian School students and faculty members for a group photo after the turnover ceremony of the donated laptop bags last week at the TSL Plaza.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Representatives of Eucon International School, Saipan International School, and Grace Christian Academy pose with Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, second from left, TSLF administrative officer Mel Naputi, center, and TSLF assistant manager Raymond Zapanta after receiving the donated laptop bags at the TSL Plaza last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From Page 2

best to bring everything back to normal and keep the positive atmosphere in our schools despite the many challenges we are facing as we continue with the recovery efforts on our islands," Tan said.

Muña, who was joined by PSS faculty staff and other personnel in accepting the bags, thanked the foundation for always including PSS among its many beneficiaries.

"The CNMI Public School System's continued success is built upon its strong community partnership and collaboration. TSL Foundation has stood alongside our commitment to provide quality educational opportunities to our largest stakeholders of public education: our students," Muña said.

"As one of our enduring community partners and on behalf of our CNMI Public School System and the State Board of Education, we would like to extend our appreciation to TSL Foundation for continually supporting the needs of our public school students and school district personnel," he added.

The bags will be made available to 11th and 12th graders on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian and also for the faculty and staff on the three islands.

"The generosity of the TSL Foundation will continue to provide our students the opportunity to learn and grow, and allow for learning to continue with the needed support and assistance that the CNMI Public School System can provide through the support of our partners," the education commissioner said.

Meanwhile, the foundation also donated laptop bags to Agape Christian School, Eucon International School, Grace Christian Academy, and Saipan International School. A total of 228 laptop bags worth $5,700 were distributed to the four private schools.

"On behalf of SIS, I would like to thank the TSL Foundation for the laptop bags for our juniors and seniors. As a 1:1 laptop school we take great pride in our ability to provide ubiquitous computing to all of our students and this kind donation will help ensure that our students can keep their laptops safe and ready," said SIS headmaster Ron Snyder. ***(PR)***

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On approved credit. Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2500. While current supplies last. 2018 Mazda3i Sport total price is $17,995. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $277.65 or $128 per paycheck based on 20% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $16,659.00.

Man in molestation case gets 15 years

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who broke into a home on Rota and molested a sleeping female minor was sentenced in Superior Court yesterday to 15 years in prison.

In a change of plea hearing yesterday in front of President Judge Roberto Naraja, Lazaro H. Guillermo, 25, pleaded guilty to two of the four charges against him: sexual assault in the second degree, punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment, and burglary, punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment.

The two other charges were dismissed without prejudice.

As a result of the plea agreement, Guillermo was sentenced to just 15 years imprisonment, with five years suspended. He will then be placed on five years of probation once he completes his sentence and will be required to perform 100 hours of community service.

Guillermo was represented by Janet King while the Commonwealth was represented by Office of the Attorney General's Chester Hinds.

Guillermo will serve his sentence without the possibility of parole.

Guillermo is obligated to pay all court costs, fines, and restitution to the victim of the case.

The restitution amount is still to be determined in a hearing in October.

Guillermo will also register in the CNMI Sex Offender Registry.

He is prohibited to having any contact with a minor without supervision, must submit to tests and examinations as requested by the Office of Adult Probation, is prohibited from drinking alcohol or any controlled substance, and is prohibited from possessing weapons.

Guillermo entered a house on Rota after dark on June 10, 2018, and touched a minor in her privates while she was asleep.

The victim told police that she woke up to someone touching her in the early morning of June 10 as she was sleeping on a couch in a bedroom with another female on a bed with a baby.

During police interview, Guillermo allegedly admitted breaking into the house through the window and touching the girl.

Guillermo said he left the bedroom when the witness told him to leave.

Based on DPS records, Guillermo is a tier-1 sex offender in Guam.

FIRE

From Page 1

help to do so. The 12th-century church is home to relics, stained glass and other incalculable works of art and is a leading global tourist attraction, immortalized by Victor Hugo's 1831 novel "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

The Paris prosecutor's office said it was treating the fire as an accident, ruling out arson and possible terror-related motives, at least for now. French media quoted the Paris fire brigade as saying the fire was "potentially linked" to a 6 million-euro ($6.8 million) renovation project on the church's spire and its 500 tons of wood and 250 tons of lead.

Despite the dramatic image of the flaming cathedral, no one was killed. One firefighter was injured, among some 400 who struggled against the flames for hours before finally extinguishing them. Firefighters continued working through the night to cool the building and secure the monument, as residual sparks sprinkled down from the gaping hole where the spire used to be.

The blaze started at 6:50 p.m. after it had closed to the public, and spread to one of the cathedral's landmark rectangular towers.

Nearby buildings were evacuated as fears mounted that the structure could collapse.

As the spire fell, the sky lit up orange and flames shot out of the roof behind the nave of the cathedral, among the most visited landmarks in the world. Hundreds of people lined up bridges around the island that houses the church, watching in shock as acrid smoke rose in plumes.

Paris fire chief Jean-Claude Gallet said the church's structure had been saved after firefighters managed to stop the fire spreading to the northern belfry. Gallet said "two-thirds of the roofing has been ravaged."

The fire came less than a week before Easter amid Holy Week commemorations. As the cathedral burned, Parisians gathered spontaneously to pray and sing hymns outside the church of Saint-Julien-Les-Pauvres across the river from Notre Dame while the flames lit the sky behind them. Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit invited priests across France to ring church bells in a call for prayers.

Nearing midnight, signs pointed to the fire nearing an end as lights could be seen through the windows moving around the front of the cathedral, apparently investigators inspecting the scene.

The city's mayor, Anne Hidalgo, said a significant collection of art work and holy objects inside the church had been recovered. She did not provide details.

Experts say firefighters were left with devastatingly few options when faced with a structure that's more than 850 years old, built with heavy timber construction and soaring open spaces, and lacking sophisticated fire-protection systems.

French President Emmanuel Macron treated the fire as a national emergency, rushing to the scene and canceling a previously scheduled televised address meant to address France's yellow vest crisis.

"The worse has been avoided, although the battle is not yet totally won," the president said, adding that he would launch a national funding campaign on Tuesday and call on the world's "greatest talents" to help rebuild the monument.

"Notre Dame of Paris is our history, our literature, our imagination. The place where we survived epidemics, wars, liberation. It has been the epicenter of our lives," Macron said from the scene.

Built in the 12th and 13th centuries, Notre Dame is the most famous of the Gothic cathedrals of the Middle Ages as well as one of the most beloved structures in the world. Situated on the Ile de la Cite, an island in the Seine river, its architecture is famous for, among other things, its many gargoyles and its iconic flying buttresses. Some 13 million people visit it every year.

Among the most celebrated artworks inside are its three stained-glass rose windows, placed high up on the west, north and south faces of the cathedral.

FAST FACTS

Here are some facts and figures about the treasured Notre Dame Cathedral.

NAME: Notre Dame de Paris, which means Our Lady of Paris.

CONSTRUCTION: The building stands on the Île de la Cité, a small island in Paris' Seine River. Construction was begun in 1163, and its two massive towers were finished around 1245, but the building was not completed until the beginning of the 14th century. Its central spire was added in the 19th century.

MEASUREMENTS AND DESIGN: The interior of the cathedral is 427 feet by 157 feet (130 meters by 48 meters). The main structure is 211 feet high (64 meters high). The three famed rose windows date to the 13th century.

FRENCH REVOLUTION: In the wake of the French Revolution, the cathedral was declared a "Temple of Reason" as part of an anticlerical movement. All of the original bells were destroyed, except for one, called Emmanuel and weighing 13 tons.

RESTORATION: In 2013, the cathedral celebrated its 850 years with a refurbished organ. Each of the nearly 8,000 pipes, some of which date back to the 18th century, was individually cleaned and returned to its place. Meanwhile, nine new, gargantuan bells replaced the 19th century ones.

VISITORS: An average of 30,000 people a day visit the cathedral.

SOURCES: Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th Edition, 2019; Encyclopedia Britannica; The Associated Press; http://www.notredamedeparis.fr/en/la-cathedrale/

OSBORNE

From Page 1

Palm Beach Post said that thousands of dollars were donated and raised at the gala, yet the money collected allegedly had no paper trail and now could not be accounted for. Osborne insists that not a cent of the money raised went to any political action committee, or PAC. "Except for the expenses that were incurred for the event, the sponsors that we got, the listed companies in the banner, paid for the event. The *Palm Beach Post* story is inaccurate on many levels."

"It [the gala] was our way of celebrating amongst ourselves after the campaign and victory. We invited members of [U.S.] Congress—representatives and senators—and people who we were then expecting to be part of the administration when Trump was sworn in. The South Asian, Filipinos, Chamorro—CNMI and Guam—and Japanese communities go on stage, thank their supporters, give a few words, then introduce their performers; then the next group comes in."

The sponsorship packages for the APA Presidential gala were divided into Presidential ($25,000), Platinum ($10,000), Gold ($5,000), and Elite ($2,500).

Osborne said that a staff from the *Post* called him to ask for comments on the involvement of Cindy Yang, the Chinese-American businesswoman who allegedly gained entry to the Trump -owned Mar-A-Lago resort with spy software with her.

"I have nothing to do with that. I never met that lady. I have no interest and, if she was there, I didn't even know. I would have no idea, just like Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres. That's why I didn't talk to her [*Post* staff]. Then I read the article, what the hell is this? This is not what happened in that event. It made it seem scandalous and it was ridiculous. The money that was raised was spent for the event. Our concern was the hotel bill was paid for, which it was. We knew that our sponsors had given money directly to the vendors," said Osborne.

"There was no money raised for future political actions. This was one thing that we want to make sure of. This was a one-and-done event. We saw it, from our own standpoint, like an islandwide pocket meeting, where Precinct 1 is in charge of rice, Precinct 2 water, Precinct 3 chicken, and so forth. We were responsible for making sure the venue—Mayflower Hotel—was paid. That in a nutshell is the story; it is a non-story. It is disappointing the reporter tried to tie in other things such as NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 as being somehow connected. It wasn't, the event was to celebrate the [Trump] inauguration."

ALLAN

From Page 1

pact on a hard surface.

The source said Mann found that the victim sustained a massive injury on the head but Mann's findings were consistent with police determination that Dela Cruz died from the fall and not from a fast-moving object.

The source said detectives found footprints all over the railings on the second-floor balcony of the house. The footprints were located almost exactly above where Dela Cruz was found on the ground.

The source said the second examination was done because, after the first autopsy, some people were insisting that DPS detectives were not doing their job, insisting that there might be foul play behind Dela Cruz's death.

The source said the second examination's findings were pretty much the same thing that detectives found during their initial investigation.

Those reportedly present at the second examination were representatives of the Office of the Attorney General Investigation Bureau, DPS detectives, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The findings of Dr. Mann were turned over to the OAG, the source said.

It was then-DPS spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong who said that police responded on Sept. 22, 2017, to a report about a dead person at a house on Mt. Tapochau.

Tarkong said police investigation showed that the victim was lying on the ground outside the residence and the body was already decomposing.

Witnesses reportedly attempted the past few days to contact Dela Cruz on his phone, but he did not reply. The witnesses then decided to check on him at his home and found the body.

Tarkong said then-Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola had ruled that the cause of Dela Cruz's death was "undetermined."

Tarkong said DPS then classified the case as a homicide considering that the cause of death is "undetermined."

Espinola did the autopsy at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue on Oct. 21, 2017.

MAN

From Page 5

out his brother and other co-defendants had appealed, he may have felt remorse and is now insisting he went ahead with the appeal.

"What actually happened cannot be known. What is known, however, is that Rahman has nothing to back up his claim," Manglona noted.

The judge directed the courts' clerk to serve a copy of her decision on the Ninth Circuit.

Rahman's co-defendants are businessman David Trung Quoc Phan and Rahman's brother, Rafiqul Islam, Phan's fiancée Analyn Nunez, Rahman's wife Shahinur Akter, and Zeaur Rahman Dalu.

Phan was slapped with an eight-month prison term, while Rahman and Islam were sentenced to 48 months and 18 months imprisonment, respectively, for their roles in a scheme to bring Bangladeshi men to Saipan on promises of high-paying jobs and green cards in exchange for cash.

Phan's fiancée, Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Akter, were acquitted. Zeaur Rahman Dalu pleaded guilty.

According to the U.S. government, each of the victims paid over $10,000, but when they arrived on Saipan in April of 2016, they were not given work as promised.

The government named five victims, all Bangladeshis, in the case.

Man convicted of fraud found to have not delivered notice of appeal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has found that a man who was slapped last year with a 48-month prison sentence in a mail fraud case did not deliver a notice of appeal to prison authorities on Saipan prior to his transfer to a prison facility in California.

In her decision on Friday, Manglona said the determination of whether Muksedur Rahman delivered a notice of appeal to the Department of Corrections officers in Susupe rests entirely on his credibility.

"Yet not one shred of evidence corroborates his story," said the judge, adding that Rahman kept mum on a matter of such importance as his appeal of his conviction and sentence.

Rahman claimed that he did not inform his court-appointed counsel, Robert T. Torres, that he handed the notice of appeal to a DOC officer while he was still in jail on Saipan.

Rahman said he appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to reverse his conviction and sentence.

Manglona held a hearing last April 2 after the Ninth Circuit remanded Rahman's appeal to the District Court for it to find out whether Rahman delivered the notice of appeal to DOC officers prior to his April 14, 2018, transfer to a California prison.

Manglona's finding is material to whether the notice of appeal was filed within 14 days after the entry of judgment on March 16, 2018 or amended judgment on April 10, 2018.

At the April 2 hearing, Rahman appeared via video teleconference from Bakersfield, assisted by a Bengali interpreter. Assistant U.S. attorneys Eric O'Malley appeared for the U.S. government. Rahman's court-appointed counsel, Torres, appeared.

Rahman testified along with DOC Corrections Lt. Joaquin Sablan.

On March 9, 2018, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour, who presided over the trial of Rahman and co-defendants, sentenced him to 48 months in prison after the jury convicted him on two counts of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

The defendant then self-surrendered to DOC. On April 13, 2018, Rahman was moved from DOC to a Bureau of Prisons facility in San Bernardino, California, and then transferred to a federal prison in Taft, California on May 25, 2018.

After talking with another Taft inmate, Rahman checked the status of his appeal with the clerk of the District Court for the NMI.

On July 23, 2018, Rahman received a response from the District Court's clerk that no notice of appeal had been filed and there was no record of an appeal.

At the April 2 evidentiary hearing, Rahman testified that he had changed his mind while in custody at DOC, and had decided to appeal.

Rahman said he prepared the notice of appeal in DOC sometime between March 14 and 16, 2018, with the assistance of another inmate that he could not identify.

Rahman said he did not tell Torres of his intention to pursue an appeal.

DOC's Sablan testified that he searched for Rahman's name in the logs for the relevant dates and did not find any entry related to Rahman.

Sablan testified that it is highly unlikely that the absence of a record is because of an oversight by DOC, considering that officers take the handling of court documents and appeal papers very seriously.

As for Rahman's testimony that an inmate helped him prepared the notice of appeal, Sablan recalled that an inmate in his 50s died of cancer in April 2018.

In her order Friday, Manglona said one can understand why Rahman would not have mentioned the notice of appeal to Torres, whose advice he was casting aside.

"But why did he not tell a single friend, a single family member, a single Corrections officer, or any fellow inmate?" the judge asked.

It is entirely possible that an inmate helped Rahman prepare a notice of appeal, Manglona said, but then he had another change of mind and decided to follow Torres' advice and not appeal.

Much later, the judge pointed out, when Rahman found

See MAN on Page 4

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/DLNR19-RFP-004

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 7, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

AGREEMENT TO FUND, REDESIGN, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE MARINA CONCESSION ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Agreement to Fund, Redesign, Maintain and Operate Marina Concession on behalf of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of Work is available on or after **April 17, 2019** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 214, Saipan.

A Ore-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Lower Base Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Anthony T. Benavente, Secretary of Department of Lands and Natural Resources no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **May 24, 2019**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 35%
4. Schedule of Completion – 15%

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, *cannot* submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/DLNR19-RFP-004"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and nine (9) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **June 7, 2019** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **June 7, 2019**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 7, 2019** and may be mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP, 96950 AND must be received no later than the close of business, **June 18, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ JACK S. REYES
DIRECTOR,
PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
ACTING SECRETARY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-011

RENOVATION OF CNMI GOVERNMENT HOUSE NO. 1216 BOARD OF PAROLE

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Renovation of CNMI Government House No. 1216 Board of Parole**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 3, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 19, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 25, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-011"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time May 3, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, May 3, 2019, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 3, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October **May 14, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 17, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 3, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

NICK M. REYES
Board of Parole Officer

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Last of 3 men in rape case is released

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The last of the three men who are accused of raping a woman was released to a third-party custodian and will await trial out of custody.

Richmond Ray Keybond, 19, has been released on a property bond to his grandmother and third-party custodian, Flaviana Saimon.

Keybond is one of three men who were allegedly involved in the same rape case. He is the last to be placed on house arrest.

The two other co-defendants are Keybond's father, Romeo Aquino Saimon, and his uncle, Joseph Aquino Saimon. Both were released months prior to Keybond on property bonds.

Flaviana Saimon previously served as a third-party custodian to a former defendant, Christopher Aquino Saimon, whose case has since been dismissed due to an untreatable mental disorder.

Keybond's request to be released to a third-party custodian was unopposed by the prosecution.

Because there was no opposition and his third-party custodian had also been approved for the same role before the dismissal of the case against Christopher Saimon, no hearing was needed.

Last month, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio absolved Christopher Saimon of two counts of sexual assault in the second-degree because reports of various experts deemed him incompetent to stand trial.

Kim-Tenorio set the jury trial for the three remaining defendants for Jan. 13, 2020. Pre-trial conference is on Dec. 3, 2019, at 1:30pm.

Keybond, Romeo Saimon, and Joseph Saimon were all arrested back in 2018 for allegedly raping the same women multiple times.

Participants of the 9th Annual Health and Safety Training at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last March have their picture taken after the training.
GMS

GMS completes health and safety training

Green Meadow School administrator, daycare staff, and teachers participated in the 9th Annual Health and Safety Training at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last March.

Sponsored by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care & Development Fund and Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Maternal & Child Health Bureau, the training was divided into four parts: Oral Health for Infants and Young Children; Introduction to the use of ASQ (Age Stages Questionnaires) Developmental Screening Tracker; Secondhand Smoke/Tobacco Cessation Services/CNMI Tobacco Laws; and Sudden Infant Death Prevention.

One of the resource speakers, Dr. Angelica Sabino, emphasized the importance of having a healthy oral care practice. with good health starting in one's mouth. She also explained that pregnant women must always practice good oral hygiene for the baby's health.

Another resource speaker, Danielle Su, talked about the importance of ASQ, a tool that can help parents keep track of their child's developmental milestones.

Hannah Isabel Shai discussed the harmful effects of tobacco on one's health, while Russell Mae Marquez shared information on preventing sudden infant death and explained safe sleep practices for babies.

"This training is very important to ensure the protection and wellbeing of our babies and children. Through this training, we were able to learn ways to reduce or prevent accidents involving children at our daycare and school. This training will help us provide better quality care to our children," said Melanie Din, who takes care of toddlers and infants at GMS Chalan Kiya daycare center. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-02

SUBMISSION DATE: May 10, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ELEVATOR REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-03

SUBMISSION DATE: May 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"STUCCO REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-04

SUBMISSION DATE: May 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FENCE REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

USCG patrols Micronesian waters to counter illegal fishing

HONOLULU—Two U.S. Coast Guard cutters crews and a long range HC-130 patrol aircraft crew recently completed combined operations with shipriders from the Federated States of Micronesia as part of the Forum Fisheries Agency's Operation Rai Balang 2019 to combat illegal fishing across Oceania.

For three weeks, U.S. Coast Guard cutters *Sequoia* and *Kiska* embarked FSM law enforcement officers as shipriders to patrol the FSM exclusive economic zone and on the high seas, supported by the HC-130 patrol aircraft crew.

In addition to the U.S. Coast Guard and FSM combined operations, Operation Rai Balang also involved ships and aircraft deployed by the remaining Pacific Quadrilateral Defense Partners—Australia, New Zealand, and France—in support of other Pacific island countries across Oceania.

Illegal, unregulated, and underreported fishing, or IUU, threatens resource security and sovereignty. Enforcing international fishing regulations on the high seas and helping Pacific island countries protect their waters from IUU fishing promotes maritime governance and reinforces a rules-based international order that is essential to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

"The U.S. Coast Guard and our Pacific Quadrilateral Defense Partners have two decades of experience working together with Pacific island countries to help ensure resource security and the viability of tuna stocks in the Pacific. Working with experts from these nations and regional leaders like the Federated States of Micronesia is vital to ensuring food security and the rule of law in Oceania. Working together we are helping to sustain and increase a secure, free and open Indo-Pacific," said Capt. Riley Gatewood, chief of enforcement for U.S. Coast Guard 14th District.

It is estimated that IUU fishing accounts for about 30 percent of all fishing activity worldwide, representing up to 26 million tons of fish illegally harvested each year, valued at between $10 billion and $23 billion.

"IUU fishing can act as a nexus for economic, social and political instability or unwanted influence of countries looking to gain a foothold in the region—all having direct economic and security implications for the United States if not effectively controlled," said Lt. Cmdr. Conor Sullivan, fisheries enforcement Coast Guard 14th District.

The U.S. bilateral shiprider arrangement with FSM is only one of 11 such agreements across Oceania. The U.S. Coast Guard regularly conducts bilateral fisheries law enforcement operations with these Pacific Island Countries, often as part of planned FFA operations across the region. ***(USCG)***

U.S. COAST GUARD

U.S. Coast Guard boarding team members stand on the deck of the cutter *Sequoia* in the Pacific last March 29, 2019.

U.S. COAST GUARD

U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* boarding team members inspect fish holds on fishing vessels in the Pacific last March 26, 2019.

U.S. COAST GUARD

Boarding team members from the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* stand on the deck of a fishing vessel in the Pacific last March 27, 2019.

U.S. COAST GUARD

Fresh fish sit in the freezer fish hold of a vessel in the Pacific last March 24, 2019.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-05

SUBMISSION DATE: May 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ROOFING INSULATION REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator — Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: April 17, 2019

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency review request from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) regarding the proposed replacement of existing airport perimeter fence for the Tinian International Airport. This project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. Additional information of the project can be accessed via the DCRM website at

https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/scope-of-work_tinian-airport-perimeter-fence-replacement-project.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for ten (10) days, starting on April 17, 2019 and ending on April 26, 2019, in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: April 17, 2019

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency review request from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) regarding the proposed improvements to its existing water and wastewater systems. The project will be performed at the following villages on Saipan - Beach Road Susupe, Garapan Lower MIHA, Afetna, San Antonio, and Texas Road Oleai. This project is being funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Additional information of the project can be accessed via the DCRM website at

https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/CUC-Water-and-Wastewater-System-Improvement-Project.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for seven (7) days, starting on April 17, 2019 and ending on April 24, 2019, in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

Hyatt golf fundraiser gets cash, in-kind donation from IT&E

As a platinum sponsor, IT&E Saipan presented Hyatt Regency Saipan's 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic with a $1,500 cash donation and two Samsung cellular devices—a Galaxy S10 and Galaxy A8—with three months free 20GB 4G LTE wireless plan, with a total value at $3,500 donation for platinum sponsorship.

The donation from IT&E Saipan will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

Make-A-Wish grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

500 Sails seeks to revive traditional Chamorro and Carolinian *proa* (canoe) construction and sailing;

NMI Rollers Basketball Association promotes the sport of basketball among the CNMI youth.

Isla Montessori School seeks to blur the boundaries between the community and institutional schooling.

4H Marianas promotes agriculture, healthy living, environmental and outdoor learning, STEM, indigenous culture, and creative arts learning within the youth of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Rob Harrell, IT&E executive director of Customer Operations, said the Hyatt Regency Golf Classic has made an impact on so many lives over the years through its many beneficiaries.

"We're happy to contribute to their mission of improving and uplifting our community. IT&E remains committed to our community by supporting organizations directly and through events like these," said Harrell.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Rob Harrell, IT&E executive director of Customer Operations; Tyrell Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food and Beverage; Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef; Rosalyn Quintanilla, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Rooms; and Claudine Camacho, Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant marketing communications manager.

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa conveyed the company's gratitude.

"On behalf of Hyatt Regency Saipan and the 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic committee, we are thankful for the valuable and continued partnership with IT&E. Through this joint effort we are giving back to the island community that has supported us throughout our 39 years of business.

"Here at Hyatt Regency Saipan we are certain that we can and will continue to make strong impacts for our community and people of the CNMI," said Nishikawa.

In business since 1979, IT&E provides long- distance, Internet, wireless voice and data services in Guam and the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Military training in Guam

The U.S. Army will conduct training at Radio Barrigada on April 16-19, from 5am to 10pm.

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on April 16-18, from 8am to 10pm.

The public should be advised that routine training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training at Radio Barrigada, formerly known as the Adm. Nimitz Golf Course.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters.***(PR)***

Saipan Computer Services, Ideal Signs, Quality Water also donate

In continued fashion, Saipan Computer Services, Ideal Signs, and Quality Water has joined forces with Hyatt Regency Saipan for the 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic, outfitting Laolao Bay Resort & Golf west course with customized vinyl banners as platinum sponsors.

Customized vinyl banners will also sport welcome, thank you, and golf sponsorship green signs at the event and post-event locations.

The donation from Saipan Computer Services, Ideal Signs, and Quality Water will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

"It has been great working with the highly skilled team at Ideal Signs, Saipan Computer Services, and Quality Water for providing the best graphic design, custom and digital signage. On behalf of Hyatt Regency Saipan, I sincerely thank Jerry Tiu and company for their superb services and continued support with the 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic," said Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant marketing communications manager Claudine Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jerry Tiu, Saipan Computer Services and Ideal Signs management, is joined by Rosalyn Quintanilla, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Rooms; Tyrell Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food and Beverage; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; and Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef. They are surrounded by staff of Saipan Computer Services and Ideal Signs.

Established in 1987, Saipan Computer Services has served the CNMI for 30 years. ***(PR)***

MVA donates to Hyatt golf fundraiser

From left, MVA's Ashley Sikayun; Janica Lizama, Shaunn Manglona; Jack Aranda; Demalynn Pagarao; Ray Villagomez; Judy C. Torres, acting MVA managing director; Tyrell Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food and Beverage; Chris Concepcion, then-MVA managing director; Rosalyn Quintanilla, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Rooms; Ed Diaz, MVA Community Project coordinator; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Danny Son, Hyatt Regency Saipan sales and marketing director; Laura Hsiao; Jadel Ignacio; and Thomas Kim, MVA marketing manager. CON-

Hyatt Regency Saipan's 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic welcomes a $2,000 donation from Marianas Visitors Authority as a platinum sponsor.

The donation from Marianas Visitor's Authority will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A- Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, RBC, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

Then-MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said: "Hyatt Regency [Saipan] is one of our key partners in the tourism industry and their contributions to the CNMI over the last 40 years are commendable. We thank them for continuing their charitable work in the CNMI and wish them success in their upcoming tournament."

"MVA has been a partner of Hyatt Regency Saipan for a very long time. Together we support the growth of our tourism industry and island economy. We are honored by the generosity MVA has extended to us. This year we decided to continue to have six beneficiaries because we want to further extend our reach within the community. With MVA's support and the contributions of other partnering organizations, our tournament will make an even bigger impact in our island community," said Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa.

In 1979 MVA opened its doors on the island of Saipan. The organization's mission is to promote and develop the Northern Mariana Islands as a premier destination of choice for visitors from throughout the world. ***(PR)***

EPA fines StarKist for failing to comply with 2018 settlement

AMERICAN SAMOA—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced yesterday that StarKist Co. and its subsidiary, Starkist Samoa Co., will be assessed $84,500 in penalties for violating the terms of a 2018 settlement designed to remedy deficiencies at their tuna processing facility in American Samoa to achieve environmental compliance.

» The company will pay $84,500 in stipulated penalties for violations at its American Samoa facility

"EPA will continue to work closely with StarKist to ensure the needed safety and pollution control upgrades are realized, per our agreement," said EPA Pacific Southwest regional administrator Mike Stoker. "With our American Samoa EPA partners, we will protect Pago Pago Harbor and the marine environment of American Samoa."

StarKist violated the 2018 settlement on multiple occasions when it made unauthorized discharges from the facility to Pago Pago Harbor, including one incident where StarKist discharged 80,000 gallons of wastewater to the inner harbor. The company also violated the consent decree terms on 27 days when wastewater was routed around one of the required treatment measures to bypass a step in the wastewater treatment process.]

Under the 2018 settlement, StarKist paid a $6.5 million penalty to resolve violations of federal environmental laws. The company was also required to make upgrades to reduce water pollution and the risk of releases of hazardous substances. In addition, StarKist agreed to provide American Samoa with $88,000 in emergency equipment for responding to chemical releases.

Starkist Samoa Co. owns and operates the tuna processing facility, located on Route 1 on the Island of Tutuila in American Samoa. Starkist Samoa Co. is a subsidiary of StarKist Co., which is owned by Korean company Dongwon Industries. StarKist Co. is the world's largest supplier of canned tuna. Its American Samoa facility processes and cans tuna for human consumption and processes fish byproducts into fishmeal and fish oil.

For information on the 2018 settlement, visit https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-american-samoa-reach-revised-settlement-starkist.

For more information on the agreement and on the statutes it covers, visit https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/starkist-clean-water-act-clean-air-act-resource-conservation-and-recovery-and-emergency. ***(PR)***

Man who punched partner to change plea

A man who allegedly punched his girlfriend in the face on New Year's Day now wants to plead guilty.

During a status conference Monday, the defense and the prosecution informed Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja that both parties have agreed on a plea agreement and are ready to change Lucio Litulumar Saures' plea from not guilty to guilty.

Naraja scheduled the change of plea hearing for Saures on April 23; the court plans to review the details of the plea agreement first.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Saures punched his girlfriend in the face during an argument on Jan. 1, 2019, at the Sonoda Apartment in Garapan. Saures then left, taking with him their children.

Police were sent to the apartment at 3:29am. Upon arriving at the scene, a police officer met with the victim, identified as Saures' partner.

The victim told police that she was sitting on the curb of the road waiting for the New Year countdown when Saures arrived and allegedly started arguing with her.

The victim said she brought the argument to the back side of the apartment complex so that no one would see them arguing, but Saures allegedly got angrier and punched the victim in the face. Police reported a bruise on the victim's face.

During a follow-up investigation, it was learned that one of the victim's children allegedly witnessed the scene. The 14-year-old child allegedly saw the argument and saw Saures punch the victim and left her unconscious on the ground before taking them away from the apartment.

Saures was arrested at the MIHA housing. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Kitchens gearing up for the Taste of the Marianas

Creative juices are starting to flow in kitchens around Saipan as hotels and restaurants prepare for the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden to be held every Saturday evening during May 2019 Tourism Month in the Marianas.

Twenty-three food and drink vendors have registered to offer their tastiest dishes and brews at American Memorial Park at the annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority. The festival will offer delights from the kitchens of Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Fiesta Resort & Spa, D'Elegance Cafe, Kanoa Resort, Terry's Snack Bar, Furusato Restaurant, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Mystique BBQ, Sierra's Pearl Shake, Kinpachi Restaurant, Herman's Modern Bakery, Ina's Kitchen, Matty's BBQ, Tropical Chill, The Hut, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Java Joe's, and Thai House.

Drinks will be offered by Saipan Brewing Co., MARPAC, and Pacific Trading Co.

"It's a full house for the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden, and visitors and residents are again going to have a chance to enjoy a wide variety of mouth-watering dishes to enjoy," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Equally exciting, we are working on another round of fierce but friendly food competitions. Stay tuned for more exciting news about 'Taste.'"

The Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden is one of the largest celebrations in the Marianas. The festival features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors, non- stop live entertainment on the main stage each night, a secondary stage featuring various food-related competitions such as a hotdog eating contest or barbecue competition, and booths that sell artwork and indigenous craft.

Supporting businesses include Platinum Sponsor Hyatt Regency Saipan and Silver Sponsors Ina's Kitchen, Dave Electronics, and Hawaiian Rock Products. The festival will be held from 6pm to 10pm each Saturday (closing at 11pm on the final night).

For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com, www.facebook.com/mymarianas, or email communityprojects@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Transfer station, landfill closed Friday

In observance of Good Friday, the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi landfill will close on Friday, April 19, 2019. Both facilities will open on Saturday, April 20, 2019. ***(PR)***

Department of Agriculture phone lines out of service

Telephone lines for the Department of Agriculture's Director's Office, Forestry & Soil Resources, Animal Health/Animal Control, and Agriculture Development Services are currently not in service. Should you need to contact any of these divisions, call the Aquatic & Wildlife Division at 735-3955/56. ***(PR)***

USCIS to present naturalization information session in Guam next month

Officials from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will present a free information session to the public about citizenship and the naturalization process in Guam next month.

This session will take place at the Guam Public Library Hagatna branch.

USCIS will provide information about eligibility for citizenship, how to apply online, the English and civics tests, application forms and fees and how to best interact with USCIS about individual cases.

Officials will also discuss ways to avoid becoming a victim of immigration scams and provide agency updates. Free educational materials will be given out, while supplies last.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit uscis.gov or follow it on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), Instagram (@uscis) and Facebook (/uscis). ***(PR)***

Power outage on April 22

There will be an emergency power interruption on April 22, from 2pm to 6pm, affecting Kagman III. The areas include Alageta Road and Puteng Drive in Kagman. No water service area nor wastewater service area will be affected. Utility lines will be de-energized to allow power line workers from Primary Source Electric to perform emergency maintenance on 12 spans of power poles along Alageta Road and Puteng Drive in Kagman.

Meanwhile, water service to Gualo Rai will no longer be interrupted on Thursday, April 18, as a result of the scheduled power interruption to take place along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai, Middle Road. The Water Division of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will use a generator as standby power to the Gualo Rai wells during the scheduled power interruption. ***(PR)***

Readiness exercise at US Naval Hospital Guam

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam—The U.S. Naval Hospital Guam will conduct a readiness exercise on April 29, from noon to 4pm, to ensure contingency requirements are up to date. USNH Guam emergency department will remain open during the date and time indicated. The public should not be alarmed if they see or hear activities associated with the exercise. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ADDENDUM NO. 1
DPW/VAO19-IFB-009

"CONSTRUCTION FOR THE CNMI VETERANS CEMETARY EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

April 16, 2019

➢ Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/VAO19-IFB-009"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, **no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, April 12, 2019** *is changed to read* ***no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 07, 2019***. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, April 12, 2019** *is changed to read* ***no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 07, 2019***, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country **no later than April 12, 2019** *is changed to read* ***no later than May 07, 2019*** and mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950 and the bid documents must be received **no later than April 23, 2019** *is changed to read* ***no later than the close of business May 16, 2019***. Note that failure to submit the required numbers of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

➢ Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., local time, April 25, 2019** *is changed to read* ***10:00 a.m., local time, May 17, 2019***. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside of the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m., local time, April 12, 2019** *is changed to read* ***10:00 a.m., local time May 07, 2019.***

All other requirements stated in the Invitation for Bids shall remain the same.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive any immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/s/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-017

ARCHEOLOGICAL MONITORING for LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Archeological Monitoring of the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of monitoring and inspection of excavation works for the Lower Base Sewer Project. The consultant also will be required to document and create a final report acceptable by CUC and the CNMI Historical Preservation Office. CUC requires the Project to be completed as per the Request for Proposal (RFP) highlights from the date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 18, 2019 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Proposers are mandated to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-017 Archeological Monitoring for Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain, " to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22th 2019**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org CUC's Purchasing Assistant and to Travis Spaeth, CUC's Project Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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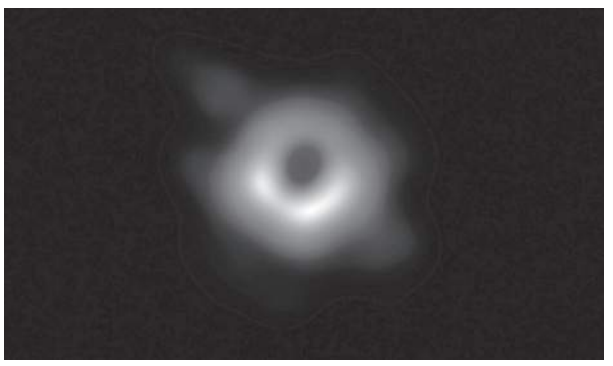
EDITORIAL

Even a black hole yields the light of discovery



EVENT HORIZON TELESCOPE/TNS

Researchers unveiled the first direct visual evidence of a supermassive black hole and its shadow. This black hole resides 55 million light-years from Earth and has a mass 6.5 billion times that of the sun.

There are few phrases that conjure metaphysical dread more vividly than the words "black hole."

They have captured the imagination of humans since a German physicist used Albert Einstein's equations more than 100 years ago to theorize that black holes existed. And what an image they conjured—an abyss in outer space so dense and so deep that nothing, not even light, could escape it.

That's why people worldwide greeted the unveiling Wednesday of an actual image of a black hole with equal parts awe, shock and joy. When you see the unseeable and ponder the unthinkable, the mind reels.

The announcement was so epic, it was made simultaneously in seven cities around the world, including Washington. As with many space discoveries, the numbers are numbing. The image of a fiery ring around a dark center was produced by 200 scientists using eight telescopes on four continents. The black hole itself in the galaxy Messier 87 is some 55 million light-years from Earth. It's 38 billion kilometers in diameter, one project physicist said, nearly large enough to swallow our solar system, and its mass is 6.5 billion times greater than that of our sun.

That singular photo is the result of one of humanity's grandest explorations, and no one left Earth. But it's the very essence of humankind. We thirst for knowledge, we seek answers to questions that befuddle us, we understand that science will guide our understanding. And we look to the heavens for inspiration and imagination.

Those of us who feel trapped in an earthly version of a black hole can find comfort in the writings of the late physicist Stephen Hawking, who believed it is possible to escape from such an abyss. The rest of us can gaze at this new sight, and dream.

(c)2019 *Newsday*

Tackling racial disparities in maternal health

By JASON KURUVILLA, RACHEL MAYER, ALISON DINGWALL
THE BALTIMORE SUN

The United States is the only country in the developed world to see an increase in women dying as a result of childbirth. Nearly 1,000 women die each year of pregnancy-related complications—deaths that could likely have been prevented with timely and proper interventions. This issue is particularly troubling for minority women. For every 10 pregnancy-related deaths of white women, 30-40 African-American women will die from pregnancy-related causes. However, efforts are under way, with broad bipartisan support, to tackle these disparities.

In December, Congress passed two bipartisan bills with the goal of reducing maternal deaths. The Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, passed with unanimous support, directs the federal government to provide maternity care resources in areas with a shortage. Days later, Congress passed the Preventing Maternal Death Act of 2018, again with unanimous support. The legislation authorizes $12 million in funds annually for five years (the first tranche of which was appropriated in fiscal year 2019) to establish or expand maternal mortality review committees and collect new data on factors that contribute to maternal mortality. With limited data currently available on maternal deaths for women in general—and nearly none for minority women—having dedicated federal dollars to develop standardized data across the country is a crucial step to addressing the issue of maternal mortality and racial disparities that persist.

These two laws can help replicate nationally what states like California have accomplished in their communities: reversing the trend of increasing maternal deaths through smart policies and critical investments in effective programs.

Through an innovative public-private partnership, state officials, working closely with Stanford University, established the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative. Using a data-driven approach, the program works with local hospitals to determine which interventions would best protect women from complications stemming from delivery. The result has been a dramatic improvement in welfare of expectant mothers: Maternal mortality rates have fallen by a whopping 55 percent over the last seven years.

However, while California has reversed its overall trend in maternal mortality, racial disparities persist. Even as maternal deaths dropped in California, African-American women continued to be three to four times more likely to die of pregnancy-related complications.

Racial disparities in health care exist for a number of reasons. Many are structural challenges—there are fewer health care facilities in predominantly African-American communities, and those that exist are often underfunded and understaffed. Racial biases play a role too. Recent studies have indicated that implicit biases can result in doctors spending less time with black patients. When seen, black patients' reports of pain are often discounted or underestimated. Even African-American celebrities, like tennis superstar Serena Williams, are not immune to these biases.

How can we address the racial disparity in maternal mortality? Policy makers and health care professionals need the right analytical tools to determine which programs and levers are most effective at reducing racial disparities. MITRE, our not-for-profit company that operates multiple federally funded research and development centers, is developing such a MITRE Maternal Mortality Interactive Dashboard (3MID) that uses available national and state data to determine which treatment, health care services, and funding levels are needed to help reduce racial disparities for African-American women.

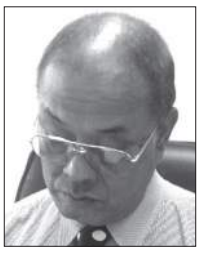
The 3MID leverages individual-level data from Washington state—one of the few states that has detailed data on maternal mortality by race. This data set, applied to the 3MID, can help determine quantitative correlations among demographic factors such as race, age, socioeconomic status and maternal mortality. Given a simulated population and an interactive dashboard, these correlations are used to determine the likelihood or risk a woman has of dying as a result of a pregnancy. Finally, the 3MID can be used help caregivers determine what interventions may reduce the likelihood of mortality.

The goal of this effort is to allow policymakers across the country to determine the most effective methods to reduce the overall maternal mortality rates and the racial disparities in maternal mortality. Those responsible for data collection as prescribed by the Preventing Maternal Death Act of 2018 should analyze data to identify patterns to better understand why racial disparities occur and to help maternal mortality review committees make policy recommendations to reduce mortality rates for all mothers. Congress has given states and communities the charge to do just that.

At the MITRE Corporation, Jason Kuruvilla is an outreach and engagement specialist; Rachel Mayer (remayer@mitre.org) is a senior health systems analyst and the principal investigator of the Maternal Mortality Model and Framework Project through the MITRE Innovation Program; and Alison Dingwall is a group lead within the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department and co-director of the MITRE Center for Child and Family Health and Wellbeing.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

15-Mit I Dichu Numeru!



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Kase 15,000 na empleau guine gumagana suetdun popble, segun i ripot gaseta. I suetdu gaige entalu` $15-mit esta $42-mit gi sakan.

Baratu i pagamientu kontra gastun nesessidat familia siha guine na petlas. Tres buettas i gastu ke fuetsan moneda. Figan na sapet gi familia siha!

Gi mismu tiempu, ti siña ta sogne i manma-elihe pot problema mas ke 40 añus na chinatsaga ni maletke ni man-mofo`na na offisiales siha.

Huñgan, dichu i asuntu ni debi uma-ina pot dañkulu na fondu ha nesessita. Ti menus ke $650 miyon pesus este na nesessidat. Estague` i dichu chanda (challenge) ayudu gi 15-mit na empleau.

Magahet na sapet yan sumen nachatsaga gi familia i tinanahuñg chigu`an para nesessidat niha. Malofan-yu` guine na kañada mina` hu komprende kabales hafa fina`pus un` popble na guma` familia.

Diberas, esta na`fañotsut i didog na pinadesen ha`ane. Kontodu uttimu hilun esperansa malagnus ginen fuetsan hinassota pot dichu nesessidat gi halum tinaya`. Sapet na mattiru gi halum guma` familia.

Maseha fotte na figan sentimentun popble siempre ta soda` dispues ginefsagata gi fiet na pinekat-ta gi halum "hatdin yine`ase`" i Saina. Solu satbasionta pa`gu!

Apas: Esta na`bulachu para i familia `an man-atotpe apas guma`, kareta yan otru siha obligasion gi un` sigidu gi mes. Ti namagof `nai chumichichi` pot ti nahuñg chigu`an. Hu dimemoria pot sessu in` fagcha`e antes parehu fina`pus.

Mientras guaha ayudun para lamasan sena taya` fondu gi moneda para otru nesessidat tat kumu magagu yan trastes eskuelante siha. Ni mona ni tatte na pinadese. Pinadesen suetdun popble!

Sin imbatgu mabatbaruye finaisen ayudu gi otru membron familia pot presisu na nesessidat famaguon. Mauleg sa` mangeftau sensian ina`ayuda gi tautauta gi dichu nesessidat familia. Suetdun popble i dichu asuntu na sakan!

Japones: Hiniyuñg Japones ginen Marianas dañkulu siknifikasioña pot halagnus lokue` fiñkas niha guine. Haye otru mas riku na nasion gi oriya ke Japon? Lau manginacha` I Boysis manlolosus gi mañgun kareta. Dios mihu!

Tantu ta trata kulan si kopas ha rikohe trastes niha ya manhanau. Kulan mohon guinaifen mañglu ni pinilota na fresku. Gai finigan i tatatte na mañglu`! Manu mohon `nai para ta suda`e katsun fiñkas ni humuyuñg guine?

Konsensia: Kada unu mehnalom gi asuntu siha diariu. Un` bos gi konsensiata ni munana`e hit señat `sino mensahe haf` mamamaila`.

Magahet na metgut sensiag-hu guine na patte. Hu sesiente todu klasen fina`pus kontodu espiritun man-mofo`na. Ti umahñau mana` fañiente-yu`.

Achog siyan sufa gi sala hu tuñgu` ha` `an guaha matatachoñg guihe. Ti bai hihute ni ti bai estotba. Guaha rason na gaige gi fihonhu. Espiritun man-mofo`na! Fanna`e orasion sa` buente ayu na man-mafattu pot nesessidat tinayuyot.

Suetdu: Mientras in` hahassu i asuntu gaige 15-mit na empleau ni gumagana suetdun popble gi halum fache` sisonyan chinatsaga.

Guaha kampu para uma-adelanta ha`anen familian niha? Asuntun nesessidat halum guma` familia ni mamatmus gi fache` baratun suetdu.

Sumen makat na estau pot memegaiña besis `nai ma-usune hinanau ha`ane sin sufisiente fondu para nesessidat niha. Na ti kualidat linala` familia obligasion miyu guine na puntu? Gef atan sa` didog pinadesen familia pot suetdun popble! Adelantu obligasion miyu!

**E`Suette:** Puede guaha otru la dañkulu na kinalamten ekonomia ni siña muna`e hit esperansa gi bandan aduana para setbisiu siha. Silensiu i tanu` pot finattun ha`ilas! Nachatsaga!

Makat na kontrariu hiniyuñg $7 biyon na fondun Japones ginen tano`ta. Manu `nai para ta soda`e tahgueña este na maliñgu? Gi mismu tiempu i hu añgoñgoghu na kinalamten bisnis kulan silensiu pot taya` masusesede fina` adelantu. Mas appenas fondu para nesessidatta gi taiguine na pinadese.

Siña ta chansa hinalum Chinu lau tai fondu taiguihe Japones. Japon i mas riku na nasion giya Asia. China mitinane` pot guaha mas ke 1.2 biyon tautauña ni debi una` fañochu diariu.

Kuttura: Mauleg in` adiñgane famaguon miyu, piot i mangai familia, na u adahe monedan niha piot gi finattun tiempun ha`ilas. Tat ti u pinalala`e mattirun este na chinatsaga. Didog yan te`ug na biahe.

Gaige mas obligasion gi nanan guma` ni dumispopone hinanau i tropa diariu. Ta diseha na u felis gi todu disposisioña pot interes todu. Tat mas attendidu guine na patte ke nanan guma`. Sattun gi inadahen nesessidat kada unu.

Seguruyu` lokue` na ti man-diskuidau hit gi usun liñguahita yan disposision propiadat familia. Tatnai huhuñgug diskuidu guine na patte. Poresu na hu añgoghu disision familia gi propiadat niha. Namagof i mansattun hit gi hafa iyota entalu` liñguahe yan tanu`. Kutturan natibu!

Your Medicare rights and protections

By GREG DILL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Greg Dill is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Did you know that Medicare has an ombudsman to help you resolve complaints you may have about your healthcare?

Congress created the job of Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman to assist people with Medicare with their inquiries, complaints, grievances, appeals, and requests for information.

The Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman also shares information with Congress, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and other organizations about what works well and what doesn't work well to improve the quality of the care you get through Medicare.

If you need help with a Medicare-related inquiry, there are several ways you can get help.

1. Call your plan. If your inquiry is related to your Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan or Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) plan, contact your plan first using the phone number on your plan member ID card. Your plan is the best resource to resolve plan-related issues.

2. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. If your concern is related to Original Medicare, or if your plan was unable to resolve your inquiry, contact 1-800-MEDICARE for help.

3. Contact the SHIP. The State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) provide free, high-quality counseling to people with Medicare regarding their benefits, coverage, appeals, and complaints. SHIP counselors are volunteers who often have Medicare themselves, so they know the issues and they're not trying to sell you anything. Find your local SHIP at https://www.shiptacenter.org/

4. Contact the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman. If you have been unable to resolve your concern with your plan or 1-800-MEDICARE, ask a 1-800-MEDICARE representative to submit your complaint or inquiry to the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will help to ensure that your inquiry is resolved appropriately.

No matter how you get your Medicare, you have certain rights and protections. As a person with Medicare, you're entitled to:

■ Be treated with dignity and respect at all times.

■ Be protected from discrimination. Every company or agency that works with Medicare must obey the law. They can't treat you differently because of your race, color, national origin, disability, age, religion, or sex.

■ Have your personal and health information kept private.

■ Get information in a way you understand from Medicare, health care providers, and, under certain circumstances, contractors.

■ Get understandable information about Medicare to help you make health care decisions, including:

• What's covered;
• How much you have to pay;
• What to do if you want to file a complaint or appeal.

■ Have your questions about Medicare answered.

■ Have access to doctors, specialists, and hospitals.

■ Learn about your treatment choices in clear language that you can understand, and participate in treatment decisions.

■ Get healthcare services in a language you understand and in a culturally-sensitive way.

■ Get Medicare-covered services in an emergency.

■ Get a decision about healthcare payment, coverage of services, or prescription drug coverage.

• When a claim is filed, you get a notice letting you know what will and won't be covered. The notice comes from one of these:

• Medicare;

• A type of Medicare health plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare. Medicare Advantage Plans provide all of your Part A and Part B benefits;

• Your Part D. Part D adds prescription drug coverage to original Medicare, some Medicare cost plans, some Medicare private-fee-for-service plans, or Medicare medical savings account plans

• Your other Medicare health plan.

■ If you disagree with the decision on your claim, you have the right to file an appeal.

• Request a review (appeal) of certain decisions about healthcare payment, coverage of services, or prescription drug coverage.

• If you disagree with a decision about your claims or services, you have the right to appeal.

• File complaints (sometimes called "grievances"), including complaints about the quality of your care.

You can find more information at: https://www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/your-medicare-rights/get-help-with-your-rights-protections.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Comment deadline today to help save Pagan and Tinian

Please step up and submit a written statement today to help stop or limit Department of Defense training in the CNMI. Today, April 17, is the last day to provide concerns about DoD using Pagan and Tinian, and that can be done at https://mitt-eis.com/.

While it helps to have clear and relevant comments, don't be intimidated by the site's request for them to be "substantive, supportive, practical, backed by facts and references, focused..." At this point, any comments will help and add to the numbers of those that expressed concerns and want to at least restrict DoD training in the CNMI.

DoD has a proven horrible history of destroying lands and water systems and leaving them prohibitively uninhabitable by humans. It's those places they've already destroyed that they should continue to train on, not Pagan and Tinian that can be better used for homesteading and repopulation, agriculture, ecotourism, and more.

Please consider the future and write today.

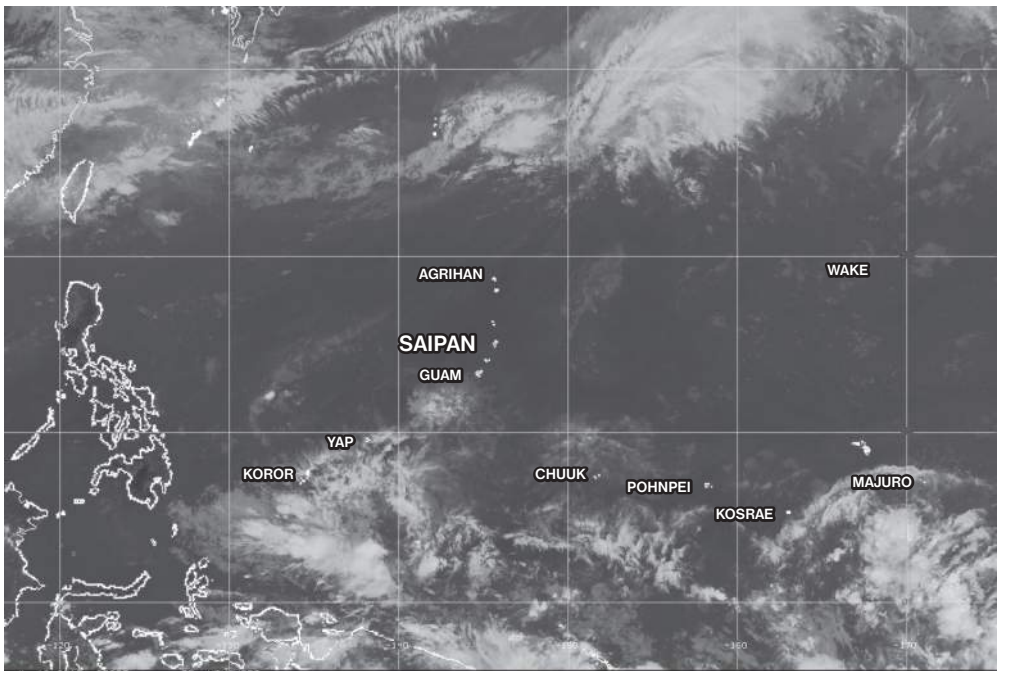
Paul Plunkett
Dandan, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 78°	89° 78°	88° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:59 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle to moderate trade winds will persist the next several days. Combined seas of 5 to 7 feet will diminish to between 4 and 6 feet by Thursday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Showers	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	73° / 46°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81° / 77°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 71°
London	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms	97° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 76°
New York	Thunderstorms	63° / 48°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	70° / 57°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Busan	Windy	66° / 54°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	66° / 46°
Salem	Cloudy	83° / 59°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	64° / 45°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	70° / 57°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	71° / 56°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
06:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.01
12:28 PM	LOW TIDE	0.58
6:03 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:14 AM	4:27 PM
Thursday	-	5:01 AM	5:26 PM
Friday	-	5:47 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	-	6:32 AM	7:22 PM
Sunday	-	7:19 AM	8:19 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Bernie Sanders releases 10 years of long-awaited tax returns

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders on Monday released 10 years of his long-anticipated tax returns as he campaigns for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

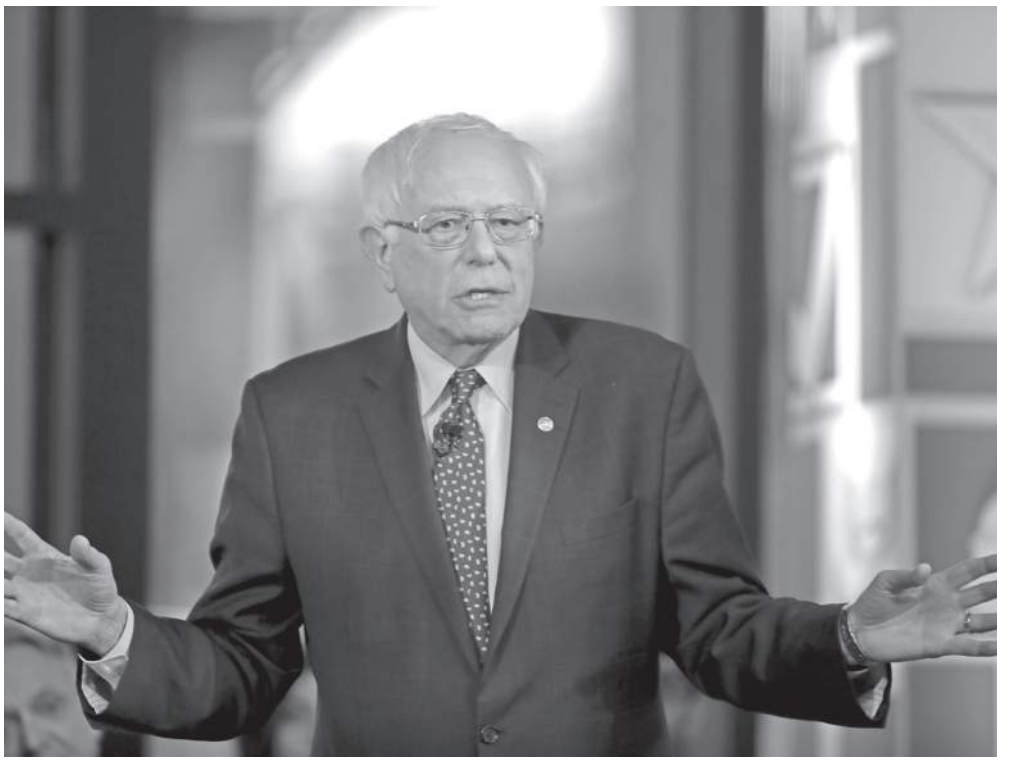
The returns provide a more detailed look at Sanders' finances than when he ran for president in 2016. The release also confirms that Sanders' income crossed the $1 million threshold in 2016 and 2017, though he reported less earnings in his most recent return.

His 2018 return reveals that he and his wife, Jane, earned more than $550,000, including $133,000 in income from his Senate salary and $391,000 in sales of his book, "Our Revolution: A Future to Believe In." Sanders' campaign said in a news release that he paid 26% effective tax rate in 2018.

During his first presidential bid, Sanders released just one year of his tax returns despite primary rival Hillary Clinton pushing him to follow her lead and release multiple years of tax information. He declined to do so, disclosing only his tax return for 2014. Tax transparency has been in the spotlight as Donald Trump bucks decades of presidential tradition by declining to show voters his tax filings and House Democrats seek to force him to turn them over.

During a Fox News Channel town hall on Monday, Sanders said that he'd increased his income by publishing a book—he's written two with campaign themes—and that he wouldn't apologize for that. He also challenged Trump to release his tax returns.

"I guess the president watches your network a little bit, right?" Sanders said to the moderators. "Hey, President Trump. My wife and I just released 10 years. Please do the same."



AP
Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks during a Fox News town-hall style event Monday April 15, 2019 in Bethlehem, Pa.

The filings show that Sanders, who throughout his career has called for an economy and government that works for everyone and not just the 1 percent, is among the top 1 percent of earners in the U.S. According to the liberal-leaning Economic Policy Institute. families in the U.S. earning $421,926 or more a year are part of this group.

In a statement accompanying the release, Sanders said that the returns show that his family has been "fortunate," something he is grateful for after growing up in a family that lived paycheck to paycheck.

"I consider paying more in taxes as my income rose to be both an obligation and an investment in our country. I will continue to fight to make our tax system more progressive so that our country has the resources to guarantee the American Dream to all people," Sanders added.

Sanders, 77, has also listed Social Security payments for each year of the decade of tax returns he made available Monday. By 2018, his wife, 69, was also taking Social Security, providing the couple with nearly $52,000 for the year.

Sanders' status as a millionaire, which he acknowledged last week, was cemented in his 2017 statement. That year, Sanders disclosed $1.31 million income, combined from his Senate salary and $961,000 in book royalties and sales. His higher income in two of the three most recent years could potentially prompt questions from voters about his frequent criticisms of the influence that millionaires and billionaires have over the political process.

Sanders and his wife disclosed $36,300 in charitable contributions in 2017, but their return does not detail each individual contribution. That same year, the couple announced publicly that they had donated $25,000 as a grant to launch the Sanders Institute, a nonprofit educational organization aligned with the senator's political and ideological interests.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

California's largest cattle-raising operation to be sold

COALINGA, Calif. (AP)—Harris Ranch Beef Holding Co., California's largest cattle-raising operation, is being sold. The company's 800-acre Central Valley feedlot, which can hold up to 250,000 cattle, and its slaughterhouse and processing facilities are being sold to Hanford-based Central Valley Meat Co. but will operate independently under the combined ownership of Central Valley Meat Holding Co., according to an announcement made last week and reported Monday by The Fresno Bee. The price and other details weren't released. The beef operations are part of Harris Farms, Inc. Founded in 1937, the family-owned agribusiness also has a thriving farming operation that produces more than 30 crops ranging from lettuce and garlic to pistachios and wine grapes; breeds thoroughbred horses and runs a popular inn and restaurant, according to the company website. The business has more than $400 million a year in sales. Only its cattle operations are being sold.

Mnuchin says Fed independence is important globally

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Monday that the Federal Reserve's independence is important globally, while refusing to comment on President Donald Trump's latest attack on the Fed. Mnuchin was asked about Trump's tweet Sunday that if the Fed had done its job properly, the stock market would be 5,000 to 10,000 points higher and overall growth would have been "well over" 4% last year instead of 3%. Interviewed by Fox Business, Mnuchn said, "In my role as secretary, it is inappropriate for me to comment. I do think that the Fed independence is something that the world looks to, and I think that the dollar being the reserve currency is very important." The dollar's standing as a reserve currency used by other nations brings significant economic advantages to the United States in the area of trade and the willingness of foreigners to help finance the federal government's $22 trillion national debt. Trump's attacks on the Fed increased sharply as a string of four Fed rate hikes triggered a sharp sell-off in the stock market late last year. The Fed has since reversed course. It has signaled that it expects to keep rates unchanged for the entire year.

Microsoft overhauls how it investigates office misbehavior

REDMOND, Wash. (AP)—Microsoft is revamping its practices for investigating workplace allegations after a group of women shared stories of discrimination and sexual harassment. CEO Satya Nadella sent a letter to employees about the changes Monday. Nadella says the company is increasing support services for workers who say they've experienced misbehavior, including a new "Employee Advocacy Team" to help guide employees through investigations. He says Microsoft will also require inclusivity training for all its roughly 16,000 managers, set new and more consistent disciplinary guidelines and create more transparency about the outcome of investigations. The changes follow a large internal email chain started last month by employees sharing personal stories of experiencing misconduct. That caught the attention of top executives. Nadella's letter to employees was first reported by news site Quartz.

Democrats subpoena banks as they probe Trump finances

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two House committees subpoenaed Deutsche Bank and several other financial institutions Monday as part of investigations into President Donald Trump's finances.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said in a statement that the subpoenas are part of an investigation "into allegations of potential foreign influence on the U.S. political process."

Schiff did not name the other financial institutions or describe the subpoenas.

House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said in a separate statement that "the potential use of the U.S. financial system for illicit purposes is a very serious concern." She said her committee is looking into those matters, including whether they pertain to Trump.

It was unclear exactly what the committees asked for. The investigations are among several House Democrats are conducting into aspects of the president's personal and political life, and Schiff has said he is investigating whether foreign actors, including Russia, have sought to hold leverage over Trump or his family and associates.

Eric Trump, the president's son and executive vice president of The Trump Organization, said in a statement released Monday that the subpoenas were "an unprecedented abuse of power and simply the latest attempt by House Democrats to attack the President and our family for political gain."

As part of his investigation, Schiff has said he wants to know whether Russians used laundered money for transactions with the Trump Organization. Trump's businesses have benefited from Russian investment over the years.

Deutsche Bank is a German asset management firm that has lent Trump's real estate organization millions of dollars over time. The two committees have been working with the bank for several weeks, and both Waters and Schiff have said officials have been cooperative. Schiff said in his statement that the subpoena to Deutsche Bank is a "friendly" subpoena, meaning he expects them to continue working with the committees.

The request comes as a third committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, is sparring with the White House over Trump's tax returns.

House Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., has set a deadline of April 23 for six years of returns. But Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, has said Democrats will "never" see the returns, "nor should they," and "they know it."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
26,384.77	2,905.58	7,976.01
−27.53	−1.83	−8.15
−.10%	−.063%	−0.10%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3989	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8396	Russian Ruble	64.2783
British Pound	0.7637	Indian Rupee	68.8205	Singapore Dollar	1.3529
Canadian Dollar	1.3383	Japanese Yen	111.9170	South Korean Won	1116.93
Chinese Yuan	6.5891	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0711	Swiss Franc	1.0031
Euro	0.8844	New Zealand Dollar	1.4788	Taiwan Dollar	30.3353
		Philippine Peso	50.6948	Thailand Baht	31.7425

Nation

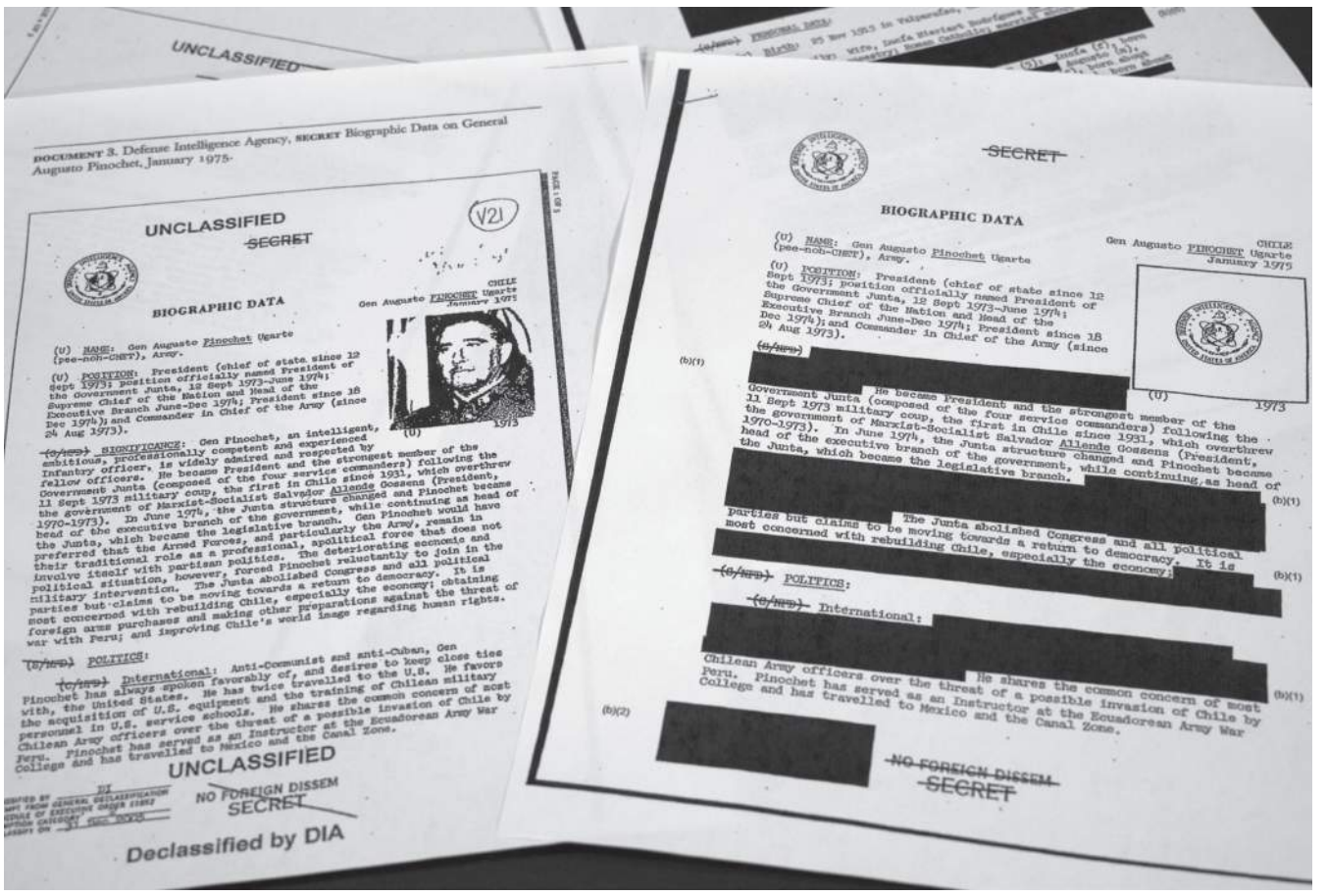
Redacted Mueller report expected to be released on Thursday

WASHINGTON (AP)—The president isn't waiting. As Washington counts down the final hours until publication of the redacted special counsel report — now expected Thursday — Donald Trump stepped up his attacks in an effort to undermine potential disclosures on Russia, his 2016 campaign and the aftermath.

He unleashed a series of tweets Monday focusing on the previously released summary of special counsel Robert Mueller's conclusions — including a crucial one on obstruction of justice that Trump again misrepresented — produced by Attorney General William Barr.

"Mueller, and the A.G. based on Mueller findings (and great intelligence), have already ruled No Collusion, No Obstruction," Trump tweeted. "These were crimes committed by Crooked Hillary, the DNC, Dirty Cops and others! INVESTIGATE THE INVESTIGATORS!"

Press secretary Sarah Sanders repeatedly tried to make the same case on TV talk shows on Sunday. But the political battle is far from finished over the special counsel's investigation of Russian efforts to help Trump in 2016 and whether there was cooperation with his campaign.



AP

The redacted, right, and the unredacted versions of the biographical intelligence file report on Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet from 1975 is photographed on April 15, 2019, in Washington.

Democrats are calling for Mueller himself to testify before Congress and have expressed concern that Barr will order unnecessary censoring of the report to protect the president. The House Judiciary Committee, led by Rep. Jerry Nadler of New York, is poised to try to compel Barr to turn over an unredacted copy as well as the report's underlying investigative files.

The Justice Department announced Monday that it expects to release the redacted version Thursday morning, sending the findings of the nearly two-year probe to Congress and making them available to the public.

Mueller officially concluded his investigation late last month and submitted the confidential report to Barr. Two days later, the attorney general sent Congress a four-page letter that detailed Mueller's "principal conclusions."

In his letter, Barr said the special counsel did not find a criminal conspiracy between Russia and Trump associates during the campaign. However, contrary to Trump's false claim, Mueller did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. Instead, Mueller presented evidence on both sides of that question. Barr said he did not believe the evidence was sufficient to prove that Trump had obstructed justice, but he noted that Mueller's team did not exonerate the president.

Portions of the report being released by the Justice Department will be redacted to protect grand jury material, sensitive intelligence, matters that could affect ongoing investigations and damage to the privacy rights of third parties, the attorney general has said.

The scores of outstanding questions about the investigation have not stopped the president and his allies from declaring victory.

They have painted House Democrats' investigations as partisan overreach and have targeted news outlets and individual reporters they say have promoted the collusion story. The president himself seethed at a political rally that the whole thing was an attempt "to tear up the fabric of our great democracy."

He has told confidants in recent days that he was certain the full report would back up his claims of vindication but was also convinced the media would manipulate the findings in an effort to damage him, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations. In the waiting game's final days, the White House continued to try to shape the narrative.

"There was no obstruction, which I don't how you can interpret that any other way than total exoneration," press secretary Sanders said on "Fox News Sunday."

Chinese woman who entered Mar-a-Lago denied bail

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A federal judge denied bail Monday for a Chinese woman charged with lying to illegally enter President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club, saying her actions and statements suggest "she was up to something nefarious" and there is an "extreme risk of flight" if she were released.

Federal Magistrate Judge William Matthewman issued the ruling for 33-year-old Yujing Zhang, who pleaded not guilty Monday to charges of lying to federal agents and illegal entering of a restricted area. Zhang faces up to five years if convicted. Prosecutors did back away from their previous contention that Zhang was carrying a computer thumb drive containing malware, saying further tests have put that in doubt.

Matthewman said he was particularly concerned that when Secret Service agents questioned Zhang on March 30 at Mar-a-Lago shortly after she gained admission, the defendant said she was carrying four cellphones, a laptop and an external hard drive because she feared they would be stolen if she left them in her hotel room. But during a search of her room later, agents found more electronics gear—including a device to detect hidden cameras—$8,000 in cash and numerous credit and debit cards, all of it unsecured.

"It does seem to the court that her alleged innocent explanation is refuted by what she left behind," Matthewman said. "It does appear to the court that Ms. Zhang was up to something nefarious ... when she gained access to Mar-a-Lago."

Because of that, Matthewman said he feared that if he allowed Zhang to be released, she would flee back to China. The U.S. and China do not have an extradition treaty. Zhang is not charged with espionage, but prosecutor Rolando Garcia said the investigation remains active. Even if Matthewman had decided to grant bail, immigration officials would most likely have detained Zhang because her U.S. visa has been revoked. Zhang showed no reaction throughout the hearing except for once saying she didn't understand when Garcia said she was at times "within an arm's length" of Mar-a-Lago computers.

One of Zhang's public defenders, Kristy Militello, told Matthewman she believes that Zhang, who works as a business consultant, was confused by the agents' questions and they misunderstood her when they say she said she was a member. Zhang speaks English, but her level of expertise is disputed by the prosecution and defense. During court hearings, she listened to a Mandarin translator but also spoke directly to her attorneys occasionally.

Militello said Zhang had come to Mar-a-Lago believing there would be a dinner that evening for a United Nations group, part of a $20,000 travel package she had purchased from a man named "Charles" she only knew through social media. Militello pointed to a receipt Zhang received from Charles Lee, a Chinese national who promotes such events at Mar-a-Lago, and a flyer she had promoting it. She requested Zhang be released on $250,000 bail secured by her father and said she would wear a monitoring device to ensure she didn't leave the area.

Indigenous leaders want less drilling near sacred sites

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Leaders of the Navajo Nation and Pueblo tribes expressed frustration Monday with federal oversight of oil and gas leases on public holdings near ancient Native American cultural sites and endorsed legislation to restrict natural gas development around Chaco Culture National Historic Park.

Acoma Pueblo tribal Gov. Brian Vallo told members of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at a hearing in New Mexico that not enough is being done to safeguard sacred sites scattered beyond the national park at Chaco Canyon.

Many of the sites involve more than just physical features that can be surveyed by archaeologists, he said, referring to the less tangible aspects of Chaco.

"Only we can identify these resources," he said.

Lawmakers including U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona and New Mexico's Debra Haaland and Ben Ray Luján said they were profoundly moved by a visit Sunday to ancient Chaco dwellings and nearby industrial sites where they used infrared camera technology to view methane escaping into the atmosphere.

"You could see the plumes coming out and moving across the sky," Luján said. "There's no question that this is occurring."

The House committee was exploring the possible impacts of air pollution on sacred sites. They also quizzed New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on her administration's push to contain emissions of methane through stricter local regulation.

New Mexico's all-Democratic House delegation is seeking to halt new oil and natural gas lease sales on federal holdings within a 10-mile (16-kilometer) buffer zone around Chaco Culture National Historic Park.

Grijalva said Chaco Canyon deserves the same consideration for protections as Yellowstone National Park, which received an ecological buffer under legislation signed this year by President Trump.

The Trump administration is seeking to eliminate 2016 Environmental Protection Agency rules requiring energy companies to reduce flaring of methane. In response, New Mexico has initiated a process for developing its own regulations to reduce flaring and leakage, while giving oilfield regulators new authority to issue citations and fines.

Panelists on Monday did not include oil producers or Bureau of Land Management officials that oversee federal mineral leasing. Rep. Alan Lowenthal of California said Republican members of the subcommittee declined to attend the field hearing or appoint witnesses.

Asia

Strongman vies with 'people's president' to lead Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—In the final moves of Indonesia's presidential campaign, one candidate dashed to Saudi Arabia to meet its king and perform a minor pilgrimage. The other attended a feline photography exhibition and giggled with delight at a giant photo of his own pet cat.

For the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, the message intended by President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's trip to the birthplace of Islam was obvious after a campaign in which conservative opponents tried to discredit him as insufficiently Islamic.

What his challenger for a second time, former special forces general Prabowo Subianto, meant was less apparent. But it presented a softer version of a candidate prone to explosions of anger who has flown around Indonesia in a private jet even as he said he was campaigning for the poor.

About 193 million Indonesians are eligible to vote in presidential and legislative elections Wednesday that will decide who leads a nation that's an outpost of democracy in a neighborhood of authoritarian governments and is forecast to be among the world's biggest economies by 2030.

Their choice is between five more years of the steady progress achieved under Indonesia's first president from outside the Jakarta elite or electing a charismatic but volatile figure from the era of the Suharto military dictatorship that ended two decades ago.

The 2014 election of Widodo, a furniture exporter whose political career started as a small city mayor, was a "manifestation of the new Indonesia, of the land of opportunity in which democratic opening has made it possible for anyone to come up to the top," said Dewi Fortuna Anwar, a politics expert at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences.

"If Jokowi wins again, clearly that is a continued reaffirmation of that as well as an endorsement of his track record for the past five years," she said.

Surveys show Widodo with a lead of up to 20 percentage points over Subianto. But the pollsters and commentators are nervous, afraid they might be failing to capture facts on the ground in the same way opinion surveys misjudged the 2016 U.S. presidential election and U.K. referendum on European Union membership.

The enthusiasm that Widodo generated in the 2014 campaign was far less evident this year apart from a final major rally at a Jakarta stadium which attracted well over 100,000 fervent supporters—about the same as Subianto a week earlier at the same venue.

"He is the best leader that the Indonesian people have ever had, very simple, not arrogant and we know what he has done for our country," said Dwi Mustikarini, one of the tens of thousands who packed the stadium for Widodo's rally.

Akhirudin Konsi, at a rally Saturday for Subianto's running mate, said he wants a "president who will fight for our rights and stand behind people, who will lower prices, especially education, fuel and basic needs."

AP

In this Oct. 17, 2014, file photo, then Indonesia's President-elect Joko Widodo, right, greets his political rival Prabowo Subianto during a meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US Marines commander asks for quiet mourning on Okinawa

TOKYO (AP)—A U.S. Marines commander in Japan has asked service people in the southwestern region of Okinawa to keep a low profile to show respect after a sailor allegedly stabbed a Japanese woman and then killed himself, the latest in a series of crimes that have outraged residents. "As a sign of respect to a community that is angry and in shock, we should be unobtrusive," Lt. Gen. Eric Smith said in a letter dated Sunday. The letter was made available Monday by a U.S. military official. The letter, addressed to base leaders, asked everyone to avoid unneeded shopping, eating out or being overly loud so as to "demonstrate solidarity with our Okinawan neighbors." The U.S. military identified the sailor as Gabriel A. Olivero from North Carolina. Japan's Foreign Ministry said the sailor stabbed the woman and killed himself Saturday. Okinawan people have long resented the heavy presence of American troops, including the resulting crime, aircraft noise and accidents, and destruction of nature.

Afghan official: Explosion kills 7 children, cause unclear

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says an explosion has killed at least seven children playing near their village in the eastern Laghman province, but says the cause of the blast remains unclear. Asadullah Dawlatzai, a spokesman for the provincial governor, says eight other children were wounded Sunday near the provincial capital, Mihterlam. He speculated that either a bomb recently planted by insurgents or leftover unexploded ordinance could have caused the blast. He said all the casualties are between 7 to 15 years of age and at least four were reported in serious condition. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion. Insurgent groups frequently use roadside bombs to target government officials or Afghan security forces across the country.

Afghan official: Gunman opens fire at a wedding, killing 3

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says a gunman opened fire at a wedding ceremony in eastern Khost province, killing at least three people before he fled the scene. The motive for the attack was unknown and no militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the shooting on Sunday night in the district of Tani. The Taliban and other militant groups are active in the province, though shooting attacks on wedding parties are rare. Talib Mangal, spokesman for the provincial governor, says the three people killed were wedding guests and that 12 others were wounded in the shooting. He says provincial officials have launched an investigation.

South Korean president calls for 4th summit with Kim Jong Un

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday he's ready for a fourth summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to help salvage faltering nuclear negotiations between the North and the United States.

Moon's comments came after Kim issued his harshest criticism yet of South Korea's diplomatic role last week, accusing Seoul of acting like an "overstepping mediator" and demanding that it diverge from Washington to support the North's position more strongly.

Moon met Kim three times last year and also brokered nuclear talks between North Korea and the U.S. following tensions created by the North's nuclear and missile tests and the exchange of war threats by Kim and President Donald Trump.

But there are fears in Seoul that the hopeful developments of 2018 could be undone because of the mismatched demands between Washington and Pyongyang over sanctions relief and disarmament, which have derailed a high-stakes Trump-Kim meeting and prolonged a stalemate in negotiations.

It's difficult for Moon to make further progress on inter-Korean engagement without some level of sanctions relief, which Washington says won't come until unless Kim commits to verifiably relinquishing his nuclear facilities, weapons and missiles. Kim has shown no signs that he's willing to give away an arsenal he may see as his strongest guarantee of survival, and Pyongyang apparently has been trying to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul by appealing to Moon's enthusiasm for engagement.

"Whenever North Korea is ready, we hope that the South and North could sit down together and hold concrete and practical discussions on ways to achieve progress that goes beyond what was accomplished in the two summits between North Korea and the United States," Moon said in a meeting with senior aides.

Moon's office did not provide a timeline on when his fourth summit with Kim might take place.

Moon met with Trump last week in Washington, where they agreed on the importance of nuclear talks with North Korea but did not announce a specific plan to get the stalemated negotiations back on track.

Moon spent the past year making aggressive efforts to stabilize South Korea's hard-won detente with North Korea and improve bilateral relations. He also lobbied hard to set up the first summit between Kim and Trump last June, when they agreed to a vague statement about a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula without describing how or when it would occur.

Trump and Kim met again in Vietnam in February, but the summit collapsed over what the Americans saw as excessive North Korean demands for sanctions relief in exchange for limited disarmament steps.

Moon has said it is Seoul's "outmost priority" to prevent nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea from derailing, and there is speculation that he will soon announce a plan to send a special envoy to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, in an effort to rescue the talks.

North Korea in recent weeks has been registering displeasure with Seoul, withdrawing its entire staff from a front-line liaison office with South Korea before sending some of them back, and refusing to show up for a previously planned joint search for war remains at the countries' border.

World

Prayers, hymns, community shared in firelight of Notre Dame

PARIS (AP)—Some kneeled, some folded their hands to make silent entreaties. Others sang with their eyes focused on the sky that had gone from blue to yellow and orange, and filled with acrid smoke.

In an impromptu act of togetherness and hope, Parisians and people just visiting France's charismatic capital came together to pray for Notre Dame as a fire quickly advanced through the cathedral.

The blaze that engulfed Notre Dame brought memories and sorrow to people around the world who had seen or dreamed of seeing the church known for its sculpted gargoyle guards and place in literary history. But emotions might have run highest in the crowd outside another Gothic church, not far from where Notre Dame burned.

AP

In this combination of photos, flames and smoke rise as the spire on the Notre Dame Cathedral collapses during a fire in Paris, Monday, April 15, 2019.

In front of the Saint-Julien-des-Pauvres church, a couple hundred people knelt in prayer in the middle of a larger group. More voices joined an unceasing communal hymn sung mostly a cappella, though accompanied at one point by two violins.

"The cathedral is more than walls. It's a symbol of Catholic France," said Paris resident Gaetane Schlienger, 18, who tried to climb a tree near the vigil. "But I have a lot of friends who are not Catholic, and for them it also has a huge impact."

Schlienger said she comes to Notre Dame nearly every week because gazing at it "you feel in security, in peace. It's magnificent."

The cathedral also called to Quentin Salardaine, 25, a doctor from Paris, as flames devoured it and colored the sky.

"I think this building just symbolizes Paris, no matter if you're Catholic or not. I'm not," Salardaine said. "I'm just here because I couldn't stay at my place just knowing that this thing is happening and there are people gathering, singing this religious anthem."

Elsewhere in Paris, hundreds, and then thousands of people lined the banks of the Seine River around the small island on which Notre Dame stands, watching in disbelief and horror.

The flames spread along the roof at the back of the structure. The spire burned and fell.

The fire chief in Paris reported crews were struggled to contain the fire, which progressed into the cathedral's wooden interior and one of the architecturally distinctive towers. Streams of water from fire hoses whipped across the exterior.

Even after firefighters started getting a handle on the blaze, bits of flame could be seen from the Left Bank still licking above exposed walls where the roof used to be. Lights moving past the huge stained-glass windows at the front of Notre Dame appeared to be guiding investigators doing inspections.

Later, an Associated Press reporter got a glimpse inside the cathedral. The only illumination inside the darkened structure came from a glowing red hole in the soaring ceiling. Hours earlier, the spire had risen from that spot into the Paris skyline. Streams of sparks instead spilled onto the floor where the church choir usually stands.

Outside Saint-Julien-des-Pauvres, people kept approaching the spontaneous chorus. Blandine Bouret, 68, said she knew the neighborhood well. Her grandfather had a small store on a street in the shadow of Notre Dame. Her father had an engraving boutique nearby.

"It's terrible, it's catastrophic. This is the soul of Paris," Bouret said.

Americans Lucy Soule and her father Win, of Freeport, Maine, felt lucky to have visited Notre Dame an hour before flames engulfed it. Lucy Soule, 22, said it also felt "weird."

"Now you can smell it burning," she said of the monument she'd stood in so recently.

Her father said, "I feel sorry for the people tomorrow. They won't be able to see it."

Dutch fertility doctor may have more than 49 children

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Martijn van Halen has every right to be angry at Jan Karbaat. The Dutch fertility doctor lied to his parents and used his own sperm to inseminate Van Halen's mother.

But, somehow, the 39-year-old Dutch landscape gardener doesn't seem to harbor too much resentment.

"Of course, what this doctor did isn't great. For my parents and the parents of my siblings, it's of course terrible," Van Halen told The Associated Press on Monday. "They were lied to and it's the doctor who treated them—that's wrong. But for me, I wouldn't have been here without the donor."

The case of Dr. Karbaat, who died in 2017 at age 89, has riveted the Netherlands, due to its mix of unethical medical behavior, privacy issues, DNA testing, legal wrangling and the rights of children to know who their parents are.

Last week, DNA results confirmed that Karbaat had fathered at least 49 children. The real number could be higher and spread beyond the Netherlands, even as far as the United States.

Ties van der Meer of the Dutch Donor Child Foundation, which supports such children, says Karbaat could have fathered many more. He said Monday that three more people contacted him over the weekend because they suspect they may also have been conceived using Karbatt's sperm.

Before learning about Karbaat, Van Halen already knew he had a large extended family, having checked an American DNA database for matches two years ago after learning from the man who raised him—who he thought was his father—that he was a donor child.

"Within a few weeks, I found out ... I had 25 siblings, half-siblings," he said.

A few months later, a Dutch agency made a DNA profile of one of Karbaat's sons. In February, Rotterdam District Court overruled the privacy objections of Karbaat's widow and ordered the profile to be made available to parents and children who suspected that they may be linked to Karbaat.

As far as Van Halen now knows, "it's 36 sisters and 12 brothers and there are still a few that want to remain anonymous."

Most of the Karbaat children are adults now and many have children of their own. Van Halen says it's striking how alike the half-siblings are.

"They're strangers, but you see ... so many resemblances. So we've got the same nose, eyes, teeth," he said. "That's really strange. It felt directly as if we already knew each other a long time."

Van Halen said the doctor had spoken in interviews years ago of taking his "product" to the United States. It is unclear whether Karbaat was referring to his own sperm or that of other donors and it was not immediately clear where in the U.S. he visited.

Karbaat's fertility clinic in the town of Barendrecht, a suburb of Rotterdam, was ordered closed in 2009 by a Dutch government health care agency due to poor administration and record keeping. A phone number and email address listed online for the clinic no longer work.

Publicity surrounding the case means that the extended family may grow even larger as more people seek to check their DNA against Karbaat's.

Meanwhile, dozens of people who now know who their biological father is are coming to terms with the news.

"We are all happy with the clarity and the information we now have, so we can get on with our lives," said Joey Hoofdman, 32, one of the people fathered by Karbaat.

"It is a wave of emotions. We are all happy we have met each other, but because there are so many, it is complicated," he added.

Hoofdman said he will now seek compensation. He said his mother went to the clinic for a fertility treatment with the sperm of her partner, the man who raised Hoofdman as his son.

Until 2004, people in the Netherlands who donated sperm or eggs could do so anonymously.

Support strong for Guaidó in devastated Venezuelan oil city

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó has met obstacles at nearly every turn since he declared presidential powers in a bid to end socialist President Nicolas Maduro's rule, and his visit to this once-thriving oil center was no different.

He was forced to take a boat to outmaneuver police roadblocks and reach throngs of supporters waiting to hear him speak in the sweltering heat in Maracaibo, a city now infamous for its blackouts.

Security forces had blocked the bridge across Lake Maracaibo just as Guaidó arrived on Sunday. Undeterred, the 35-year-old opposition leader and his entourage boarded a private boat and sped off across the water.

While Guaidó has gained backing from the United States and some 50 other nations, Maduro remains firmly entrenched nearly three months into the struggle for control of Venezuela. Guaidó has been stripped of his immunity and faces the looming threat of arrest—something he warned would be a "big mistake."

"It would only deepen the crisis," Guaidó told The Associated Press as the boat crossed the choppy waters. "The consequences would only hurt the regime."

Maracaibo, Venezuela's second-largest city of 1.5 million where refineries that once hummed with constant activity have fallen into disrepair, is a window into a nation that has plunged into chaos.

The power has returned for most of Venezuela after a massive electrical grid failure that blanketed most of the country's 30 million residents for days starting March 7. But Maracaibo hasn't bounced back.

The city is a crumbling version of its former self. Gushing oil wells that helped make a nation with the world's largest oil reserves flush with cash have given way to broken-down oil platforms that sit idle as nearby shores are black with oozing crude.

Maracaibo has endured rampant blackouts for more than a year, leaving residents of a city where temperatures regularly reach 100 degrees without air conditioning and refrigerators, spoiling food. In the streets, residents spend hours searching for water, and schools barely open.

Frustration spilled over for several days in mid-March, with mass looting by mobs that overran shopping centers sacking 523 stores—many of which have not reopened their doors.

Residents say they live in fear of a serious illness or injury. Doctors in the main emergency hospital tell patients to bring their own water to clean wounds and even the most basic items like aspirin are lacking.

Guaidó's first visit to Maracaibo since declaring presidential powers on Jan. 23 comes at a time when he seeks to tap into popular frustration and anger to re-energize his campaign.

Some fear he's leading yet another fatally stalled opposition movement unable to break free from Maduro. Guaidó has failed to win a critical mass of the armed forces away from Maduro or bring in international shipments of humanitarian aid.

The masses of supporters who flooded the streets in the capital, Caracas, immediately after Guaidó declared presidential powers aimed at toppling Maduro have begun to wane.

Focus

In this April 9, 2019, photo, Lee Dong Kil's daughter Lee Yoon Seol sits to celebrate her the 100th day of the birth at Lee's house in Daejeon, South Korea. Just two hours after Lee's daughter was born on New Year's Eve, the clock struck midnight, 2019 was ushered in, and the infant became 2-years-old. She wasn't alone, though it happened for her quicker than most: Every baby born in South Korea last year became 2 on Jan. 1. AP

S. Korean babies born Dec. 31 become 2-year-olds next day

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAEJEON, South Korea (AP)—Just two hours after Lee Dong Kil's daughter was born on New Year's Eve, the clock struck midnight, 2019 was ushered in, and the infant became 2-years-old. She wasn't alone, though it happened for her quicker than most: Every baby born in South Korea last year became 2 on Jan. 1.

According to one of the world's most unusual age-calculating systems, South Korean babies become 1 on the day of their birth and then get an additional year tacked on when the calendar hits Jan. 1. A lawmaker is working now to overturn the centuries-old tradition amid complaints that it's an anachronistic, time-wasting custom that drags down an otherwise ultramodern country.

For parents whose babies are born in December, it can be especially painful. One hour after his daughter's birth in the central city of Daejeon at 10 p.m. on Dec. 31 of last year, Lee posted the news on social media. His friends immediately showered him with congratulatory messages.

"An hour later, when the New Year began, they phoned me again to say congratulations for my baby becoming 2-years-old," said Lee, who is 32 internationally but 34 in South Korea. "I thought, 'Ah, right. She's now 2 years old, though it's been only two hours since she was born. What the heck!'"

The origins of this age reckoning system aren't clear. Being 1 upon birth may be linked to the time babies spend in their mothers' wombs or to an ancient Asian numerical system that didn't have the concept of zero.

Becoming a year older on Jan. 1? That's even harder to explain.

It could be that ancient Koreans cared a lot about the year in which they were born in the Chinese 60-year cycle, but, without regular calendars, didn't care much about the specific day they were born; so they mostly ignored the day of their birth and instead marked another year of age on the day of the Lunar New Year, according to senior curator Jung Yonhak at the National Folk Museum of Korea.

This may have then shifted to the solar New Year on Jan. 1 as the South began embracing the Western calendar. North Korea uses the Western age calculating system, but they have a twist: they follow their own calendar that's based on the birth of national founder and president-for-life Kim Il Sung.

The year of your birth is still incredibly important in South Korea, and lumps those linked children together for life.

Other Asian countries, including Japan and Vietnam, abandoned the Chinese-style age system amid an influx of Western culture. Officially, South Korea has used Western-style calculations since the early 1960s. But its citizens still embrace the old-fashioned system in their daily lives because the government has done little to get people to change over to the Western style.

In this April 9, 2019, photo, Lee Dong Kil holds his daughter Lee Yoon Seol as his wife Ryu Da Gyeong sits as they to celebrate daughter Lee's the 100th day of the birth at their house in Daejeon, South Korea. Just two hours after Lee's daughter was born on New Year's Eve, the clock struck midnight, 2019 was ushered in, and the infant became 2-years-old. AP

Most South Koreans are simply accustomed to living with two ages.

People don't hold massive joint birthday parties on New Year's Day; they just celebrate their birthday on the days they were born. Young people consider themselves another year old on solar New Year's Day (Jan. 1) while older people often use the Lunar New Year's Day. Many family restaurants don't charge babies if they are 36-months-old or younger, so parents often calculate their babies' ages under the Western method when they're dining out.

Some South Koreans still worry that the practice makes their nation look odd on the international stage. Some feel confusion when meeting with foreigners. Associated Press journalists in Seoul must ask Koreans what year and month they were born to calculate their Western age for news stories.

There are also some who say the concept of "Korean age" encourages a fixation on age-based social standing in this seniority-based country. In South Korea, those born in the same year often treat each other as equals, while people must use honorific titles to address those born earlier, rather than directly using their names.

Ahn Chang-gun, from the southeastern city of Gimhae, said he felt "empty" when his first child became 2 on Jan. 1, 2013, about two weeks after his wife delivered him after eight years of marriage. "He was this precious baby that we finally had, but I felt that all of a sudden two years had just gone by and yet I hadn't done anything for my baby," said Ahn.

Parents whose babies are born in December often worry about their kids falling behind other children born earlier in the same year, though worries gradually disappear as their children age.

When Seo Hyo Sun from Buchon, just west of Seoul, was taken to the hospital to get a cesarean section on Dec. 29, she couldn't stop weeping because her baby's due date was supposed to be Jan. 7.

"Tears kept flowing. ... My doctor told me the baby wanted to come out today so let's just celebrate," said Seo, 31 in international age. "When I awoke from my anesthesia, I felt really grateful ... because my baby was born healthy. That was enough."

In January, lawmaker Hwang Ju-hong tabled a bill aimed at requiring the government to put international ages in official documents and encouraging general citizens to go with their international ages in everyday life. It's the first legislative attempt to abolish "Korean age."

"It is aimed at resolving confusion and inefficiency caused by the mixed use of age-counting systems," Hwang said in the proposed legislation.

Hwang's office said a parliamentary committee discussion and a public hearing on the issue are expected in coming months.

Surveys in recent years showed more South Koreans supported international age though it wasn't clear how seriously they wanted a change.

"If we use international age, things could get more complicated because it's a society that cares so much about which year you were born," said Lim KyoungJae, 46, head of the Seoul-based Miko Travel agency. "We should also definitely count the time of a baby being conceived and growing in its mother's womb."

Lim's employee Choi Min Kyung, who is 26 internationally and 28 in South Korea, disagreed.

"It's good to be two years younger ... (especially) when you meet men" on blind dates, Choi said with a laugh. "There is a big difference between 26 and 28."

Good Housekeeping

Combining plants with different cultural needs is a recipe for disaster

Newsday

Dear Jessica: I have some cactus plants that I bought at CVS about a year ago. Each pot contains three cactuses. I've always kept them by the front window so they could get some sun each day. I've liberally been spray misting them with water every several days. Within the last several weeks, one of the plants in each pot began to decline. I'm not sure what I should do.

— Keith Amato

TNS

Combining plants with different cultural needs is a recipe for disaster.

Dear Keith: Your ailing plants are Acanthocereus tetragonus (sometimes called Cereus tetragona, for short) and these types of cactuses require slightly more water than most others. They also prefer smaller pots. Cactuses in general should never be planted in glazed containers, as yours are, because the glaze prevents moisture from evaporating; and pots should always have sufficient drainage holes. In addition, sometimes preplanted arrangements (especially some found at non-horticultural retail outlets) contain groupings of individual plants that look nice together but have different cultural requirements. A shade lover, for instance, might be planted with one that requires more sun to thrive. In your case, the plants' water requirements weren't compatible.

I reached out to the Long Island Cactus and Succulent Society for more information, and a representative confirmed, "This is totally the wrong plant in the wrong place. You can't grow a plant like that in a drainless-pot or with other cactus that need very different care. The people that put these pots together are to blame for the plants dying."

Your two cactuses cannot be saved, but you should repot the other two into a smaller, unglazed terra cotta pot with a hole at the bottom for drainage.

Dear Jessica: I planted a few small arborvitaes (I think they are Green Giants) last fall. I want to fertilize them but am not sure what type of fertilizer to use.

— David Millman

Dear David: Arborvitaes and most other evergreen trees do not typically require fertilizer once they are established but can benefit from annual applications of a slow-release product, made in early spring, in each of their first five years.

Because they don't fruit or flower, the fertilizer you choose should be mostly nitrogen, which is the first number in the nutrient ratio indicated on the package label. Look for a first number that is at least double the second and third, such as 12-6-4, 12-6-6 or 20-10-5. Apply one-third pound (2 cups) per foot of the trees' height (10 cups around each 5-foot tree, for example), working it into the top 3 inches of soil and taking care not to allow the product to come into contact with the trees' trunks or roots. Water well.

When applying fertilizer, avoid inhaling the dust and heed other precautions noted on the package label.

DEAR JESSICA: I planted a honeysuckle vine three years ago but let it get out of control. Can I prune it back and start over?

— Kevin Winther

Dear Kevin: Honeysuckle vines bloom on the previous season's growth, so when a few branches need to be removed or shortened, it's best to wait until just after the season's flowers drop (and no later, or you'll risk removing buds that will become next year's flowers).

When the vines are neglected and become a tangled mess as yours have (no offense intended), it's almost impossible to selectively prune branches, so a rejuvenation pruning may be in order. Doing so requires cutting the entire plant down — nearly to the ground — and the best time to do that is now, before it breaks dormancy. The benefit is that the plant will grow back quickly and in good form, but the downside is that you will have to sacrifice this year's flowers.

Kitchen Comforts: More flavor with flourless peanut butter cookies

By GENEVIEVE KO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Comfort food is wrapped up in nostalgia and memories. From my Monterey Park childhood, it's dim sum on Sundays, black beans at Angela's after school, onigiri rice ball swaps at the lunch tables, tacos after basketball, ensaymada buns for breakfast, ginger-scallion fish for dinner, the perpetual scent of steamed rice hanging in my home.

As I grew up, the list of what constituted comfort food for me grew. My first-ever plate of mujadarra — rice and lentils with fried onions — was a revelation. It was when I realized that you don't have to have a personal connection to a dish for it to comfort you. There's something intangible to dishes that make the list, but every culture has them. I think it's rooted in how everyday cooking is a mix of selflessly making food to feed others while also selfishly giving you pleasure in the process. They are honest dishes with simple, satisfying flavors and textures. Because this isn't food that makes you think; it's food that makes you feel.

My favorites will provide the early inspiration for this biweekly column, but I want to hear from you too. Email me your comfort foods at cooking@latimes.com or at the address below.

And so, I will start at the beginning, with the first thing I ever made on my own: peanut butter cookies. In my initial attempt as a 7-year-old, I followed the recipe in my mom's red-checked Better Homes & Gardens binder. But I accidentally swapped the salt for the sugar. Huge mistake, but also motivation to try again.

So I did. Countless batches and decades later, I've landed on this, my ideal version. It delivers the pleasure of eating a spoonful of chunky peanut butter straight out of the jar in a two-bite cookie. (Don't make them bigger or you'll lose the magic ratio of crisp edge to chewy center.) I've streamlined the technique to one bowl and the ingredient list to maximize peanut-buttery goodness. To accentuate the peanuts, I took out flour and added extra salt. Not as much as in my initial fail, but just enough in a crunchy duo of sea salt and chopped salted nuts.

It took years of cooking professionally and growing up to understand that the best dishes aren't ones that show off my skills in the kitchen. They're the ones that make the people I'm feeding happy. And leave me with the fewest dishes to wash. These cookies hit both marks.

SALTED CHUNKY PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

35 minutes, plus cooling. Makes about 4 1/2 dozen cookies.

These cookies have a deeper richness when baked with peanut butter that's made with only peanuts (ideally roasted) and salt. Be sure to get the salted variety; unsalted can be bland at best and beany at worst. Sometimes it's labeled natural or old-fashioned, but there's no industry standard, so checking the ingredient list is the only way to tell. Peanut butter loaded with extra sweeteners, fats and stabilizers may give you more consistent results but lack the earthy nuttiness of the pure stuff. Laura Scudder's all-natural old-fashioned nutty tastes extra toasty; Trader Joe's crunchy salted makes dough balls that hold their shape well; and Whole Foods' 365 crunchy has a nice proportion of chopped nuts. Try those or whichever you like enough to eat straight out of the jar.

1 tablespoon salted butter, room temperature

3/4 cup packed dark brown sugar

1 cup natural chunky peanut butter

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 large egg, room temperature

Coarse sea salt, such as kosher, Maldon or

fleur de sel, for sprinkling

1/2 cup roasted salted peanuts, chopped

1. Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Line two large cookie sheets with parchment paper.

2. Smash and mix the butter into the brown sugar with a spoon in a bowl until the butter is no longer visible and the sugar resembles wet sand. Add the peanut butter, vanilla and egg and mix until well combined. Lift the spoon out of the dough. If the dough drips off in globs, refrigerate or freeze it until stiff. Cold dough will bake into taller cookies too.

3. Drop rounded teaspoons of dough onto the prepared sheets, spacing 1 ½ inches apart. Sprinkle the tops with salt and then with peanuts.

4. Bake 1 sheet at a time until darker brown around the edges and dry on top, 9 to 11 minutes. Cool completely on the sheets on a rack.

Make Ahead: The dough can be refrigerated for up to 2 days. The baked cookies can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 1 week and in the freezer for up to 1 month.

VARIATIONS

PB&J sandwich cookies

Spread a thin layer of thick jam on half the cookies and sandwich with the others.

Vegan peanut butter cookies

Mix 1 tablespoon ground flax seeds with 1 tablespoon cold water. Let stand until thickened, about 5 minutes. Substitute coconut oil for the butter and the flax mixture for the egg. Proceed as above.

Peanut butter and salted caramel ice cream sandwiches

Sandwich small scoops of salted caramel ice cream between cookies and freeze until firm.

Life & Style

Notre Dame hailed as monument to the 'best of civilization'

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Notre Dame, a survivor of wars and revolutions, has stood for centuries as not merely the greatest of the Gothic cathedrals and a towering jewel of Western architecture.

■■■

PARIS (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron pledges to rebuild Notre Dame, will seek international help to do so.

■■■

It has stood, in the words of one shell-shocked art expert, as "one of the great monuments to the best of civilization."

And so it was that across the globe Monday, a stunned and helpless art world wept alongside the people of France as a massive fire ravaged the beloved cathedral.

This 1911, file photo shows the Notre Dame Cathedral, on the island called Ile de la Cite in Paris. AP

"Civilization is just so fragile," said Barbara Drake Boehm, senior curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's medieval Cloisters branch in New York, her voice shaking as she tried to put into words what the cathedral meant. "This great hulking monument of stone has been there since 1163. It's come through so many trials."

"It's not one relic, not one piece of glass—it's the totality," she said, struggling to find words expansive enough to describe the cathedral's significance. "It's the very soul of Paris, but it's not just for French people. For all humanity, it's one of the great monuments to the best of civilization."

Boehm spoke shortly before the Paris fire chief announced that firefighters had been able to finally save the structure, including its two main towers. Much of the roof was destroyed.

The exact cause of the blaze wasn't known, but French media quoted the fire brigade as saying it was "potentially linked" to a 6 million euro ($6.8 million) renovation project on the church's spire and its 250 tons of lead. The Paris Prosecutor's office, which was investigating, said it was treating it as an accident.

Construction on Notre Dame—French for "Our Lady"—began in the 12th century and continued for nearly 200 years. It sustained damage and fell into neglect during the French Revolution, but received renewed attention following the 1831 publication of Victor Hugo's novel "The Hunchback of Notre-Dame." This led to two decades of restorations, including the cathedral's famous flying buttresses and a reconstructed spire.

This 1987 file photo shows the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. AP

While most kings were crowned elsewhere, Napoleon Bonaparte made sure he was crowned there in 1804, and married there in 1810.

Experts note that Notre Dame is an aesthetically smooth synthesis of different centuries. "It all blends together so harmoniously," said Nancy Wu, a medieval architecture expert and educator at the Met Cloisters. She said she was struck by delicacy of the structure, as well as that in the three stunning stained-glass rose windows, and the elegant exterior carvings.

"There are a lot of details that remind one of intricate lace," she said, "even though it's a building of cold hard stone."

Aside from the structure, art experts were concerned about the fate of countless priceless artworks and artifacts inside, including relics like the crown of thorns, which is only occasionally displayed.

"This cathedral has a number of elements that are not just famous but religiously significant," said Julio Bermudez, professor at the school of architecture and planning at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. "One of course is the crown of thorns ... the faithful believe this is the crown that the Savior put on his head. It's kept in a very safe place. But you know the fire is tremendously damaging." He also expressed concern about the beautiful stained-glass windows, which he called "really irreplaceable."

Those worried about the cathedral's durability could, perhaps, take solace in one of Notre Dame's more fascinating survival stories. In 1977, workers demolishing a wall in another part of Paris discovered 21 heads belonging to 13th-century statues from the cathedral. The kings of Judea, which were a prime example of Gothic art, had been taken from Notre Dame during the French Revolution and guillotined by antiroyalists who mistakenly thought they represented French kings.

The heads, which were thought to be lost, are now displayed in the capital's Cluny Museum.

The mourning was not limited to the art world. Religious leaders, too, expressed deep sorrow over the devastation.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, said he was praying for Notre Dame, which he called "second maybe to St. Peter's Basilica, (in) ... the ability of a church to lift our minds and hearts back to the Lord."

"For the French, my God, for the world, Notre Dame Cathedral represents what's most notable, what's most uplifting, what's most inspirational about the human project," he said.

Boehm, at the Cloisters, found herself thinking about how the cathedral is at once of the past, and of the present—a living, vibrant building, despite its age.

"When you step inside it, you have at once the sense of everything that came before, and everything that's still current," she said.

This April 18, 1967, file photo, shows the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. AP

Loughlin, Giannulli plead not guilty in college bribery scam

BOSTON (AP)—"Full House" actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, pleaded not guilty Monday to charges that they paid $500,000 in bribes to get their daughters into the University of Southern California.

The couple is among 50 prominent parents, athletic coaches and others charged in a sweeping college admissions bribery scam that has embroiled elite school across the country, such as Stanford, Georgetown and Yale.

Loughlin and Giannulli filed court documents Monday waiving their right to appear for an arraignment and entering not guilty pleas to the two charges against them. The judge granted their requests, meaning they will not have to show up at Boston's federal court to be arraigned.

Thirty-three wealthy parents were charged last month in what authorities have called the biggest college admissions case ever prosecuted by the Justice Department. They are accused of paying admissions consultant Rick Singer to rig standardized test scores and bribe college coaches and other insiders to get their children into selective schools.

Loughlin and Giannulli are charged with paying bribes to have their daughters designated as crew recruits to USC, even though neither of them is a rower. Authorities say Loughlin and Giannulli helped create fake athletic profiles for the teens by sending Singer photos of their teens posing on rowing machines.

After their older daughter was admitted to USC, authorities say Giannulli, whose Mossimo clothing had long been a Target brand until recently, sent Singer an email with the subject line, "Trojan happiness," thanking him for his "efforts and end result!"

Loughlin, who played Aunt Becky on the sitcom "Full House," and Giannulli haven't publicly addressed the allegations against them.

Their daughter, Olivia Jade Giannulli—a social media star who has a popular YouTube channel—was dropped from deals with cosmetics retailer Sephora and hair products company TRESemme after her parents' arrest.

Prosecutors last week added a money laundering conspiracy charge against Loughlin, Giannulli and more than a dozen other parents who are still fighting the case, increasing the pressure on them to plead guilty. Several other parents who were indicted alongside Loughlin and Giannulli have also filed court documents entering not guilty pleas.

Each of the charges Loughlin and Giannulli faces call for up to 20 years in prison, although first-time offenders would get only a small fraction of that if convicted.

Fellow actress Felicity Huffman, who starred in ABC's "Desperate Housewives," and 12 other parents announced last week that they have agreed to plead guilty to a single charge of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud. Huffman is scheduled to appear in Boston on May 21 to enter her plea.

Prosecutors have said they will seek a prison sentence on the low end of four to 10 months for Huffman, who was charged with paying $15,000 to boost her daughter's SAT score.

On Friday, a former Florida prep school administrator pleaded guilty to taking entrance exams for students, or correcting their answers, as part of the scam. Prosecutors have said they will seek between 33 to 41 months in prison for Mark Riddell, a Harvard graduate oversaw college entrance exam preparation at IMG Academy.

HBO looks beyond 'Game of Thrones,' maybe back to a prequel

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

This image released by HBO shows Emilia Clarke, left, and Kit Harington in a scene from "Game of Thrones." AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When the last drop—or gallon—of blood is shed and an exultant victor has ascended to the Iron Throne, viewers may be split over how HBO's fantasy saga ended but they'll be joined in deprivation.

"What do you do without 'Game of Thrones?'" will be the lament heard after the May 19 finale, said media industry analyst Larry Gerbrandt. The question is even more critical to the pay-cable channel, which soared on dragon's wings with its hugely popular, eight-season adaptation of George R.R. Martin's novels.

Keeping subscribers on board means more than another hit, even one as globally dazzling as "Game of Thrones" proved to be. But it's where HBO can start to protect its brand and position, observers say, an effort both demanded and compounded by an increasingly congested small-screen landscape and the expectations of the channel's corporate owner since 2016, AT&T.

"I think they need a prestige show on this level to remain HBO," Bill Carter, a media analyst for CNN and former reporter for The New York Times. But "more than ever, it's really hard to find a hit show and to break through in this marketplace."

Sunday's season premiere underscored the point, with "Game of Thrones" drawing a series-high record of 17.4 million viewers on TV and streaming . It set a streaming record for HBO and reinforced its standing as one of television's most popular shows.

The channel is well into the hunt for a worthy successor, with one possibility an untitled prequel to "Game of Thrones" created by Martin and Jane Goldman and starring Naomi Watts. Set to begin shooting a pilot in June, it's among several potential "Thrones" spinoffs being weighed, with discussions at HBO about "how many is too many," said programming chief Casey Bloys.

"We have high hopes" for the pilot, he said. "But I want to be clear, nobody is going into this thinking that we're going to do a prequel and all of a sudden everybody who automatically watched 'Game of Thrones' is going to watch this. ... It'll have a different feel and different rhythm. We're not trying to do the same show again."

That begs the question of what more HBO has to offer, he said. During a period in which "Game of Thrones" was off the air for scheduling reasons, series including "Westworld," ''Sharp Objects" and "Barry" proved strong draws, Bloys said.

"I'm not going to argue that we won't miss 'Game of Thrones.' It's been a fantastic show for us, but life does go on," he said. He points to a deep bench of returnees, including Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon's "Big Little Lies," and newcomers including the graphic novel-based "Watchmen" from "Lost" producer Damon Lindelof. One marquee series that's also in its final season: the much-admired comedy "Veep," with Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

HBO, which launched in 1972 and whose cachet has long justified the boastful slogan, "It's not TV. It's HBO," has reached this crossroads before. At the turn of the century, pop-culture sensations "The Sopranos" and "Sex and the City" boosted the channel's visibility and subscribers and made it a serious player for prestige awards—including cable's first-ever Emmys for best drama and comedy series. After the shows wrapped, the channel moved nimbly on with audience-pleasers including "Six Feet Under" and "True Blood."

But that was then, and this is the time of streaming—or, in shorthand, Netflix, along with a growing host of others including Amazon and Hulu—and a shoulder-bumping rush for stars and showmakers to churn out more and more fare for outlets already awash in programming.

HBO, no longer a singular alternative to staid broadcast networks, also got new corporate ownership when AT&T bought its parent company, Time Warner. HBO recently saw the exit of its chief executive, Richard Plepler, who had been with the channel for nearly 30 years and guided it to "Game of Thrones" glory.

With AT&T's resources, HBO has stepped up production and will see a 50% increase in the number of original program hours this year, Bloys said, arguing that volume doesn't preclude high quality: "There's nothing in 2019 that we're putting on the air because we're trying to hit an hour count. ... We haven't lowered any of our standards to reach a certain level of programming" and there is no pressure to do otherwise from WarnerMedia CEO John Stankey, he said.

Subscribers ultimately will decide whether the shows are what they want. But expanding the pipeline is unavoidable, said Tuna Amobi, a media and entertainment analyst with investment firm CFRA.

"It's a very different competitive landscape for HBO than it was when they launched 'Game of Thrones,' and they realize that. That's why you see them ratcheting up their investments in their programming," Amobi said. Also key is how HBO's online platform is integrated with planned WarnerMedia streaming offerings to reach the broadest audience possible and make full use of its content, he added.

HBO "cannot rely on the old ways of doing things and hope that being a premium channel will bail you out," he said.

"Game of Thrones," which debuted in 2011, has flourished despite the confounding number of small-screen choices. From its first-season average weekly tally of 9.3 million cumulative viewers, the series rose to a seventh-season high of 32.8 million across all HBO platforms, including the channel itself and streaming services HBO Go and HBO Now and over a period extending 30 days beyond the season's end.

It benefited from the devoted following for Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" clutch of novels. It was richly and painstakingly produced, filmed in 10 countries including Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Morocco, Iceland and Canada. Its appealing cast became household names, and the female characters that grew in stature and strength as the drama unfolded are routinely name-checked as part of the female-empowerment zeitgeist.

"Game of Thrones" could boast of its Emmy dominance as well, with 47 trophies to date including three best drama series awards. Last year, it denied a second consecutive win to a worthy opponent, Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," but HBO itself lost valuable Emmy bragging rights: It was surpassed in total nominations for the first time in 17 years and by relative newcomer Netflix, and the streamer tied HBO in wins.

Analyst Gerbrandt, of Media Valuation Partners, isn't counting the channel out. Many viewers still like so-called "curated" TV delivered to them, as opposed to searching online through dozens or hundreds of offerings, he said. There's also the power of perception at work.

"If there's a brand that survives strictly on name, it's probably HBO," he said.

'Game of Thrones' season debut breaks HBO rating records

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The first episode of the final season of "Game of Thrones" is a record-breaker for the series and HBO.

The pay channel said the 17.4 million viewers who watched Sunday's episode either on TV or online represent a season-opening high for the fantasy saga.

HBO Now also posted its biggest streaming night ever, the channel said Monday.

The episode topped the 16.1 million who saw the seventh-season premiere and the 16.9 million who watched that season's finale.

Reflecting increasing audience fondness for streaming, HBO saw about a 50 percent increase in online viewing compared to last season's finale. In comparison to the season-seven premiere, the streaming audience nearly doubled.

"Game of Thrones" ultimately averaged 32.8 million viewers per episode last season in cumulative TV and online viewership, HBO said.

Pulitzers honor coverage of 3 US mass shootings in 2018

NEW YORK (AP)—The *South Florida Sun Sentinel* and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* won Pulitzer Prizes on Monday and were recognized along with the *Capital Gazette* of Maryland for their coverage of the horrifying mass shootings in 2018 at a high school, a synagogue and a newsroom itself.

The Associated Press won in the international reporting category for documenting the humanitarian horrors of Yemen's civil war, while *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* were honored for delving into President Donald Trump's finances and breaking open the hush-money scandals involving two women who said they had affairs with him.

The Florida paper received the Pulitzer in public service for its coverage of the massacre of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland and for detailing the shortcomings in school discipline and security that contributed to the carnage.

The *Post-Gazette* was honored in the breaking news category for its reporting on the synagogue rampage that left 11 people dead. The man awaiting trial in the attack railed against Jews before, during and after the massacre, authorities said.

After the Pulitzer announcement, the newsroom in Pittsburgh observed a moment of silence for the victims. At the *Sun Sentinel,* too, the staff took in the award in a sober spirit.

"We're mindful of what it is that we won for," Editor-in-Chief Julie Anderson said. "There are still families grieving, so it's not joy, it's almost ... I don't know how to describe it. We're emotional, as well."

So, too, at the *Capital Gazette*, which was given a special citation for its coverage and courage in the face of a massacre in its own newsroom. The Pulitzer board also gave the paper an extraordinary $100,000 grant to further its journalism.

"Clearly, there were a lot of mixed feelings," editor Rick Hutzell said. "No one wants to win an award for something that kills five of your friends."

The Annapolis-based newspaper published on schedule, with some help from *The Baltimore Sun*, the day after five staffers were shot and killed in one of the deadliest attacks on journalists in U.S. history. The man charged had a longstanding grudge against the paper.

Aretha Franklin makes history with posthumous Pulitzer win

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin is still getting R-E-S-P-E-C-T after death: The Queen of Soul received the Pulitzer Prize Special Citation honor Monday, becoming the first individual woman to earn a special citation prize since the honor was first awarded in 1930.

The Pulitzer board said the award was given to Franklin for "her indelible contribution to American music and culture for more than five decades."

Franklin died on Aug. 16 at her home in Detroit from pancreatic cancer at age 76.

The superstar musician was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame when she entered the prestigious organization in 1987.

The Pulitzer board most recently awarded a special citation prize in 2010 to Hank Williams, the country music legend who died in 1953. From the arts world, other recipients include Duke Ellington, Bob Dylan, John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, George Gershwin, Ray Bradbury, William Schuman, Milton Babbitt, Scott Joplin, Roger Sessions, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

Before Monday, only 41 special citation prizes had been awarded since 1930, and winners have ranged from individual people to organizations and groups, including the New York Times, writers E.B. White, Alex Haley and Kenneth Roberts, and Columbia University and its Graduate School of Journalism. Franklin and the Capital Gazette newspaper received special citation honors this year.

AP

In this April 19, 2017, file photo, Aretha Franklin performs at the world premiere of «Clive Davis: The Soundtrack of Our Lives» during the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

"Aretha is blessed and highly favored even in death. She's continued to receive multiple awards—she's received almost every award imaginable and now to get the Pulitzer Prize, it's just amazing," Sabrina Owens, Franklin's niece and the executor of her estate, said in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday. "Aretha continues to bless us with her music and just paving the way for women going forward. It's thrilling. She would be so happy right now."

When Owens heard the news that Franklin won a Pulitzer, she and the family were "surprised but in another way we were not because that's just the kind of person Aretha was."

"She was just very gifted and talented, and the world is still recognizing that," she said.

Franklin's inclusion into the exclusive club re-confirms the impact her music—and voice—had and continues to have on the world. She became a cultural icon and genius of American song, considered by many to be the greatest popular vocalist of her time. Her voice transcended age, category and her own life.

Franklin was professional singer and accomplished pianist by her late teens and a superstar by her mid-20s. Raised in Detroit, she recorded hundreds of tracks and had dozens of hits over the span of a half century, including 20 that reached No. 1 on the R&B charts.

But her reputation was defined by an extraordinary run of Top 10 smashes in the late 1960s, from the morning-after bliss of "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," to the wised-up "Chain of Fools" to her unstoppable call for "Respect," transforming Otis Redding's song into a classic worldwide anthem—especially for the feminist and civil rights movements—making it one of the most recognizable and heard songs of all-time.

She sold millions of albums and won countless awards, including 18 Grammys, the National Medal of Arts and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

She performed at the inaugurations of Presidents Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, and even sang at the funeral for civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks and at the dedication of Martin Luther King Jr's memorial.

Disney, Comcast now Hulu's only owners as AT&T exits

NEW YORK (AP)—AT&T has sold its 9.5% share in Hulu back to the streaming TV company, leaving Disney and Comcast as its owners.

Hulu said Monday that AT&T sold its stake for $1.43 billion, valuing the unprofitable Hulu at $15 billion.

The Walt Disney Co. wound up with a 60% share after its purchase of much of 21st Century Fox, which included Fox's Hulu stake. NBCUniversal parent Comcast Corp. owns 30%. There is speculation that Comcast will sell too, leaving Disney the sole owner and perhaps making Hulu's content much more Disney-centric.

Disney may bundle Hulu with its upcoming kids-focused streaming service, Disney Plus, and its sports service, ESPN Plus, executives said last week.

Hulu's $6-a-month service lets users watch original series and network TV episodes after they air on TV. It has a newer live-TV service that costs $45 a month.

AT&T came by its Hulu stake after buying Time Warner, which invested $583 million in Hulu in 2016. Now the company, known as WarnerMedia, is launching its own streaming service later this year, which will focus on HBO and other shows and movies owned by the company.

NBCUniversal, too, will debut a streaming service in 2020.

The fragmentation of streaming services may mean higher costs for consumers as they hunt down all their favorite shows and movies across different services.

Hulu CEO Randy Freer said in a statement that AT&T's WarnerMedia, which provides content to Hulu, will remain "a valued partner."

Jay-Z to perform at newly renovated Webster Hall in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay-Z will help re-open the newly renovated Webster Hall concert venue in New York City with a performance next week.

Tickets for the April 26 show go on sale Friday. It will be Jay-Z's first time performing at the venue located in Manhattan's East Village.

Webster Hall has operated as a venue since 1886. Others set to perform there include Patti Smith and Her Band, Rosalia, MGMT, Empire of the Sun, Old Dominion and Chromeo.

The concert hall says in a press release that the recent renovation "aims to preserve the iconic features of the venue, while modernizing it to meet today's entertainment and guest experience standards."

Joan Collins thanks firefighters after London apartment fire

LONDON (AP)—Joan Collins has thanked firefighters for their quick response after a blaze erupted in her London apartment.

The 85-year-old actress shared video images of a charred wall on social media after the weekend fire. She also tweeted thanks to the "marvelous" firefighters who tackled the "terrifying" blaze.

Collins said her husband Percy Gibson was a "hero" for trying to douse the flames with a fire extinguisher.

The London Fire Brigade said Monday that the blaze in the ritzy Belgravia neighborhood was caused by sunlight reflecting off a shaving mirror and setting fire to a bathroom blind. It said such fires were a particular risk at this time of year.

The brigade said Collins and Gibson were both checked at the scene but did not need hospital treatment.

Wife discovers digital trail left by man having affair

DEAR ABBY: My husband went to his 45th class reunion a state away and hooked up with a classmate. Over the next few months it went from talking and texting to her sending him nude pictures of herself.

I found her emails professing her love to him. When I asked him, he swore nothing happened between them during the two weeks he was there other than a lunch date. After further investigation, I have discovered they had more than 30 hours of phone conversations, exchanged 4,000-plus texts and who knows the number of emails. Not only that, he bought another phone so I could no longer see the interactions on our shared cell account.

He finally admitted they did have a sexual encounter. He has now agreed to end all contact with her and work on our marriage. He has apologized, but I'm struggling to believe him because every time I found damning evidence, he would make up another excuse or blame it all on her. However, he never told her to stop or blocked her.

Is it time to cut my losses, or should I wait to see if he does this again? Why do people think having affairs is a good thing?

CONFUSED IN MONTANA

DEAR CONFUSED: People who think an affair is a good thing for a marriage are deluding themselves. An affair only adds to the problems the couple was trying to ignore. It's time for you and your husband to make an appointment with a licensed marriage and family therapist. Marriages can survive infidelity, but it takes time, full disclosure and hard work to rebuild trust. It will happen more quickly with professional help. If it doesn't work, THEN may be the time to "cut your losses." Only you can decide whether your marriage has been irretrievably broken.

DEAR ABBY: I was diagnosed with cancer two years ago. I had surgery and radiation treatment, and although my recovery was slow, I am doing well now.

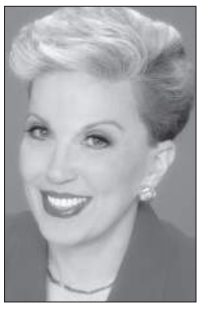
About a year ago, a co-worker was diagnosed with breast cancer. Our other co-workers raised a large sum of money for her to be used at a spa. They have also offered her emotional support via phone calls, texts, visits and cards. While I don't begrudge her the gifts and support, I'm very hurt that all I received was a handful of cards, an occasional phone call or text and one visit from one person. Only one of my co-workers stuck by me through everything.

I see these people all the time, and I'm having a hard time with my hurt feelings. Any thoughts on how I can move on? As a sidebar, these people are always the first ones to ask me for help and support at work.

HURT IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR HURT: There is nothing to be gained by nursing this disappointment. You and this woman are different people and likely have different relationships with these coworkers. If you don't want to help the people you feel gave you short shrift by comparison, you are free not to. But if you intend to continue working at the place you now do, recognize that it is time to put this behind you and move forward.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

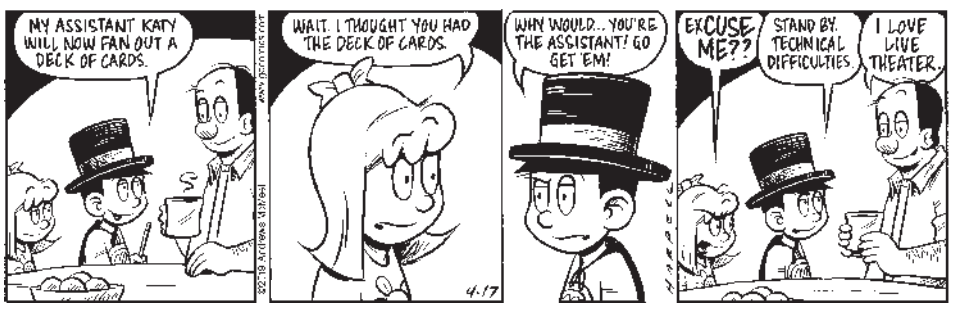
HERE. DRINKING FROM THE FAR SIDE OF A GLASS IS SUPPOSED TO CURE HICCUPS.
THE (HIC) FAR SIDE OF (HIC) THE GLASS? (HIC) HOW DO I (HIC) DO THAT?
YOU HAVE TO BEND YOUR HEAD WAY OVER.
OH (HIC) I SEE.
(HIC) THANKS. NOW I'VE GOT THE HICCUPS AND WATER UP MY NOSE.
I THINK MOST HICCUP CURES WERE REALLY INVENTED FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF THE PATIENT'S FRIENDS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MY ASSISTANT KATY WILL NOW FAN OUT A DECK OF CARDS.
WAIT. I THOUGHT YOU HAD THE DECK OF CARDS.
WHY WOULD... YOU'RE THE ASSISTANT! GO GET 'EM!
EXCUSE ME??
STAND BY. TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.
I LOVE LIVE THEATER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

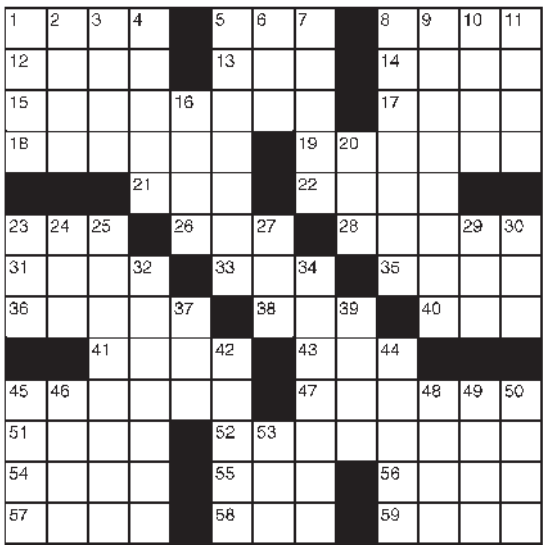
ACROSS
1 Piratic quaffs
5 605, in old Rome
8 Last write-up
12 Like some vaccines
13 Ecol. watchdog
14 Strata-gem
15 Turkey's most populous city
17 Actress Falco
18 Second of two
19 Church keyboards
21 Six, in Sicily
22 Harvest
23 Fireplace residue
26 Society newbie
28 Golf great Sam
31 Coach Ewbank
33 Passing craze
35 Capital on a fjord
36 Cardiff's country
38 "Uh-huh"
40 Kids' game
41 Antitoxins
43 French article
45 Juan's pals
47 Cease-fires
51 Track assign-ment
52 Brazil's most populous city
54 Karaoke prop
55 Brit. record label
56 Bridal cover
57 Writer Kingsley
58 Wee bit
59 Old U.S. gas brand

DOWN
1 Stir up
2 — Major
3 "The Martian" actor Damon
4 Bed boards
5 Question after a mission
6 PC's brain
7 Bravery
8 Pizza sauce herb
9 Hunga-ry's most populous city
10 "The doctor —"
11 Casual tops
16 Must have
20 Scale members
23 "How adorable!"
24 Mermaid's home
25 Finland's most populous city
27 Inlet
29 Carte lead-in
30 Pooch
32 "Stayin' Alive" band
34 Shoulder muscle
37 "No seats" sign
39 Criminal, to cops
42 Plus
44 Debonair
45 — mater
46 Hurt severely
48 Poolroom supply
49 Yale students
50 Without help
53 "I — Rock"

Solution time: 23 mins.

J	U	D	I	■	W	A	G	■	C	G	L	E
U	T	F	S	■	R	C	A	■	I	R	I	S
S	A	I	A	D	O	I	I	■	I	U	M	P
T	I	F	■	F	N	D	■	A	B	B	F	Y
■	■	■	S	A	G	■	B	R	A	■	■	■
A	S	I	E	N	■	M	I	C	R	O	B	E
D	■	O	S	■	G	A	G	■	C	R	A	L
D	R	E	A	M	O	N	■	G	N	A	T	S
■	■	■	M	A	C	■	B	U	S	■	■	■
C	A	G	F	R	■	D	F	F	■	P	S	I
O	R	F	O	■	O	I	I	F	I	F	I	D
R	A	N	I	■	A	M	I	■	C	I	I	O
A	B	F	I	■	F	F	F	■	Y	F	P	S

Yesterday's answer 4-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rooney Mara, 34; Jennifer Garner, 47; Liz Phair, 52; Sean Bean, 60.

Happy Birthday: Live and learn. This is a year of growth, opportunity and achievement if you make the effort and are open to learning, updating and expanding your skills, knowledge and quality of life. Be willing to cut back where you can to make room for the people, activities and goals you want to embrace, and you'll get good results. Your numbers are 4, 17, 21, 29, 30, 38, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take care of your responsibilities first, and move on to more enjoyable tasks. Don't let the past cause anxiety when you should be putting your time and energy into living in the moment and preparing for the future. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A passionate approach to life and to the way you handle personal matters will pay off. Patience, moderation, knowledge and being secretive until you have everything in place will be a remedy for success. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Lighten up and do something that will ease stress and get you moving in a healthy and happy direction. A creative outlet will encourage you to try something different and put an end to relationships that drain you. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Physical preparation is encouraged if you want to avoid emotional stress. Rely on people who have never let you down, and the changes you want to make will be easier to obtain. Don't let moodiness set in and ruin your day. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Travel and communication are favored. Update your credentials or your skills. Learning something new will motivate you to make changes to the way you earn your living or how you handle your money. Positive communication will improve an important relationship. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotional spending won't help your situation, but investing in your future will. How you handle your personal funds or who you get involved with financially should be looked at carefully. A close relationship will need an adjustment. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Emotions will be difficult to control, especially if someone you feel responsible for or live with causes a fuss. Physical exertion will help to ease stress and give you a healthier perspective on whatever situation you face. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Listen to suggestions, but when it comes to time to take action, do what's best for yourself. A joint venture will lead to problems and disagreements regarding money matters. Work alone, but when it comes to relaxing, share with someone you love. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't give in to pressure tactics or let someone bamboozle you into something without giving you the facts. You are better off making personal changes that will not affect others but will make you feel self-sufficient and happy with your life. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An opportunity will be too good to pass up. Make adjustments that allow you enough time to explore the possibility of making a long overdue change to where or how you live. New beginnings based on old dreams look inviting. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put time, effort and energy into personal improvements. A change at home made for the right reason will benefit you as well as the people you care about. Speak from the heart; you will get the support you need to proceed. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Flesh out any problems you foresee before you make changes. A discussion with someone you love will give you the confidence to move forward with your plans. Stick to a budget and honor any promises or commitments you've made. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, engaging and perceptive. You are expressive and protective.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	1			4	9	
	2				3			
7				8				
1				6				
9				5				
5	7	4		2	9	6		
8			2	3			1	
6			7	4			8	
	4	9			7	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	9	4	3	8	6	7	2	5
3	7	8	5	9	2	6	4	1
5	6	2	1	4	7	9	3	8
8	1	3	6	7	5	4	9	2
9	4	6	2	3	8	5	1	7
7	2	5	9	1	4	3	8	6
6	3	1	8	5	9	2	7	4
4	5	9	7	2	1	8	6	3
2	8	7	4	6	3	1	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CURFEWS Solution: 6 letters

S	T	H	G	I	L	C	F	A	M	I	L	Y	Y	N
P	R	E	G	U	L	A	T	E	N	R	L	T	O	E
E	T	U	S	T	L	L	N	D	E	I	H	I	U	I
C	E	Y	O	I	S	L	O	G	A	G	S	V	T	G
I	E	T	M	H	G	O	A	D	I	S	C	I	H	H
F	R	I	E	P	R	N	H	N	I	S	H	T	O	B
I	T	R	G	S	E	E	S	M	N	B	O	C	M	O
C	S	O	A	E	L	Y	R	W	R	O	O	A	E	R
A	O	H	T	U	E	E	O	E	P	J	L	A	Y	H
W	R	T	R	B	P	D	M	R	T	R	U	S	T	O
A	D	U	O	R	N	M	E	E	N	U	S	M	E	O
R	E	A	H	U	U	P	A	N	I	C	R	W	F	D
E	R	U	S	S	A	P	U	B	L	I	C	N	A	T
C	O	N	T	R	O	L	E	S	F	O	C	U	S	L
S	L	L	E	B	E	D	T	I	M	E	V	I	R	D

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Activity, Assure, Authority, Aware, Bedtime, Bells, Call, Control, Daily, Drive, Family, Firm, Focus, Home, Host, Hour, Indoors, Jobs, Laws, Lights, Limit, Neighborhood, Night, Obey, Order, Panic, Permission, Prepare, Public, Regulate, Return, Roles, Rule, Safety, School, Shortage, Signal, Signs, Specific, Street, Summer, Sundown, Teenager, Trust, Youth

Yesterday's Answer: Television

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Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROGER THOMPSON Petitioner vs. COMPONG THOMPSON Respondent TO: COMPONG THOMPSON) FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0170 **SUMMONS**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Roger Thompson whose mailing address is ONE BROADWAY 391 TINIAN MP as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2019.
/s/ Clerk of Court

MARIANAS MEDICAL CENTER

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following position:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Board and Management Company Administration and Support - The CEO supports the operations and administration of the Board of Directors and Marianas Medical Center's (MMC) Management Team by maintaining continual, open and effective communication between the Board, the MMC Management Team, and the Medical Staff.

Medical Staff Liaison - The CEO facilitates relationships between the physicians and recognizes that the ongoing strength and success of the organizations relies heavily on the strength and success of our medical staff and engages them accordingly. The CEO also participates in issues surrounding ethics and quality.

Community and Public Relations - Through exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, the CEO assures that the MMC & Pacific Laboratories consistently present a strong, positive image in the CNMI community.

Compliance - The CEO will ensure that MMC & Pacific Laboratories comply with local and U.S. federal laws and regulations as they apply to operations of the clinic.

Strategic Planning - The CEO stays current with the healthcare industry conditions and their potential impact on the organizations' policies and operations. The CEO develops the short-term and long-term strategic plan for the clinic and the services it offers. The CEO ensures the plan is articulated both internally and externally, and effectively delegates key activities to ensure timely execution of the strategic plan initiatives. The CEO assists in developing strategies and implementation plans to improve and standardize all aspects of operations. The CEO tracks resource utilization and manages that data to assist with efficiencies of clinic operations.

Delivery of Healthcare Services - The CEO has overall responsibility for the design, marketing, promotion, delivery, risk management and quality of all healthcare programs and services provided to the community. The CEO ensures that policies and practices effectively support safe patient care, and that the delivery of healthcare services provides the highest level of a positive experience to the patient.

Financial Management - The CEO prepares budget and contingency plans and recommends yearly budgets for Board and Management Company approval and ensures prudent management of the resources within those budgetary guidelines according to current local and U.S. federal laws and regulations. The CEO ensures that operational processes are within the agreed budgets and timelines. The CEO directs and oversees the billing and revenue cycle functions of the clinic and is accountable for the development implementation of business processes that meet or exceed expectations.

Human Resources Management - The CEO ensures effective management of the human resources of the clinic according to current, authorized personnel policies and procedures that fully conform to current local and U.S. federal laws and regulations.

Facilities Management - The CEO oversees the preservation of the asset value of the clinic's capital investments, oversees the management of construction and facility activities, and ensures disaster and emergency preparedness activities are appropriately planned, exercised and documented.

Supervisory responsibilities - The CEO directly supervises the Director for Medical Services, General Manager, Billing Manager and Accountant.

The CEO will perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

The CEO follows all HIPAA guidelines and maintains confidentiality at all times.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration or relevant field;
- Master's degree strongly preferred in Healthcare Administration (but not required);
- Must have at least five (5) years of directly related experience with healthcare facilities including two (2) years in a supervisory role; and
- Must have good communication skills, critical thinking skills and demonstrated flexibility and the ability to continually address and shift priorities, meet deadlines and work in a fast-paced working environment;

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

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Marianas Medical Center
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Saipan, MP 96950
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Presidential Medal of Freedom to Woods

AUGUSTA— President Trump Monday announced he would be awarding Tiger Woods the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the wake of Woods' Masters victory Sunday.

Woods' one-shot victory at Augusta National capped off an amazing and lengthy comeback from personal setbacks and physical ailments.

Woods earned his fifth green jacket and 15 major championship with the Masters triumph. He lives in Jupiter, Fla., near Trump's Mar-a-Lago club and has been a frequent golfing partner of Trump's since the 2016 election.

Trump made the announcement on Twitter.

Woods is not the first professional golfer to earn the Medal of Freedom. Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus also have Medals of Freedom, both bestowed by President George W. Bush. President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to pioneering black golfer Charlie Sifford in 2014.

The medal, the nation's highest civilian honor, is bestowed by the president to individuals deemed to have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

Trump handed out his first medals last year, making a posthumous award to Elvis and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and baseball legend Babe Ruth.

Trump spent much of Sunday at this golf course in Northern Virginia and appeared to be watching the Masters for at least part of the day, based on his Twitter posts. "Very exciting, tune in!" the president wrote shortly before Woods won the tournament. "Truly Great Champion!" he posted later.

AP

Tiger Woods reacts to his birdie putt on 15 during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 12, 2019, at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga.

Where does Tiger go from here?

Woods isn't saying, which isn't surprising, seeing as he is tight-lipped about his future playing plans.

"Nope," Woods said. "Want me to elaborate?" he added with a smile.

But history provides a clue. After he celebrates his fifth Masters title, 15th major championship and 81st PGA Tour title in his seaside palatial compound in Jupiter, Florida, Woods likely will restart his march toward Jack Nicklaus' record 18 majors and Sam Snead's record 82 Tour titles in the Wells Fargo Championship on May 2-5.

First of all, he won there in 2007. And the tournament falls two weeks before the PGA Championship at Bethpage Black on May 16-19 in New York.

Woods prefers not to play a week before a major.

Woods won the 2002 U.S. Open at Bethpage Black and finished in a tie for fourth there in the 2009 U.S. Open.

After that, he'll likely play in Nicklaus' annual bash in the Memorial in Ohio May 30-June 2. He's won there five times, most recently in 2012. And that tournament also is played two weeks before the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach in California June 13-16.

In 2000 at Pebble Beach, Woods won the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and the U.S. Open. He won the national title by a record 15 shots.

The only tournament set in stone after the U.S. Open is the British Open July 18-21 at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland.

"I'm not going to play as much as I did last year," said Woods, who played 18 PGA Tour events last season, plus the Ryder Cup and the Hero World Challenge. "I played a little bit too much last year because I kept trying to qualify for World Golf Championships events and the (FedExCup) Playoffs. The playing schedule doesn't change. I'm going to play a little bit less than I did last year.

"In the tournaments I do play in, I'll be fully invested and committed to playing and trying to win.

Manning expects Giants to pick a QB in NFL draft

Eli Manning's immediate future for the upcoming season will gain even more clarity in 10 days.

That's when the New York Giants will line up with the No. 6 and No. 17 picks in the first round of the NFL draft, likely with an eye on selecting his eventual successor. There's every reason to believe Manning will enter his 16th season in the NFL in the same job he has held for most of the previous 15 years as the starting quarterback of Big Blue, although as the team's voluntary offseason program got underway Monday, the two-time Super Bowl MVP admitted he expects to welcome another into the training facility in East Rutherford later this month.

"I figure the Giants are gonna get a young quarterback, I understand that," Manning said on a conference call Monday. "Hey, I still have to do my job and do my part. My job, as I see it, is to go out there and play quarterback and win football games."

With Manning and the returnees back in the building, the Giants were also hosting Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins on his top 30 visit in advance of the draft.

Manning is 38 years old and entering the final season of his current contract, but he promises his approach does not change.

"No, I think you treat it the same as every year," Manning said. "You come in, you know, I've had a good offseason, worked hard, excited about getting back with the team, with the coaches and going into that second year, you always have a different advantage knowing what the offense is, what the coaches like. You have things that you want to improve on within the offense, with certain plays, certain concepts - I think it's just the mind-set to work on the things that you need to improve on to help the team and keep doing the things you were successful with, keep doing those things well."

Giants co-owners John Mara and Steve Tisch both acknowledged at the owners' meetings in Arizona last month that, with regard to Manning's contract status and his age, any determination about his future would be made on a year-to-year basis - and Manning said he understood that.

"I've never concerned myself with that. I think every year, I'm just worried about that next year," Manning said. "That's what I'm thinking about, I'm thinking about right now and getting with this team, getting rolling, getting wins, doing whatever it takes to be a good teammate and getting this team to win football games."

Yankees greats Mariano Rivera and Derek Jeter announced their retirements before their final seasons, creating a tour around the league with others lauding their careers. CC Sabathia has taken the same approach this season.

There were no hints of retirement from Manning on Monday, by the way, so the scenario was strictly hypothetical when asked if he envisioned following in the footsteps of Rivera, Jeter and Sabathia—among others—if and when he decided to say good-bye to the NFL.

"I think I will go the traditional route. I thought that was a baseball thing," Manning said. "I know some basketball players have done it, but I don't see going out that way.

Meanwhile, Manning says he found out about last month's trade of Odell Beckham Jr. to the Cleveland Browns on the crawl at the bottom of his TV. Says he reached out to OBJ, and they've been in touch.

"I think after being in the NFL for 16 years, I don't think there are a whole lot of surprises anymore. You learn to deal with everything," Manning said. "You learn to adjust, you move on and do my job. Do it to the best of my ability and get the players that are here up to speed. That is the great thing about football. I am excited about the players that we have and the additions that we have made. Get everyone up to speed and on the same page. Keep moving forward."

In other news, the Minnesota Vikings have signed former Los Angeles Rams quarterback Sean Mannion and ex-Denver Broncos wide receiver Jordan Taylor.

Mannion will likely replace Trevor Siemian, who joined the New York Jets, as the primary backup to Kirk Cousins. Kyle Sloter will also be in the second-string mix. Mannion was a third-round draft pick by the Rams in 2015 from Oregon State. He was the primary backup to Jared Goff last season all the way through the Super Bowl.

Undrafted out of Rice in 2015, Taylor played in 26 games for Broncos and totaled 351 yards and two touchdowns. He was sidelined last year following double hip surgery.

The Vikings also announced Monday that safety Anthony Harris and tackle Rashod Hill, both restricted free agents, signed their contract tenders.

In Wisconsin, the Green Bay Packers have claimed kicker Sam Ficken off waivers from the Seattle Seahawks, bringing in potential competition for 13-year veteran Mason Crosby.

Ficken was added to the roster Monday, three days after he was dropped by the Seahawks. The Penn State product has also spent time with the Jacksonville Jaguars, Kansas City Chiefs and Los Angeles Rams. He appeared in two games for the Rams in each of the last two seasons, filling in for the injured Greg Zuerlein while going 3 for 6 on field goals and 14 for 15 on extra points.

Ficken became expendable by the Seahawks after they signed Jason Myers in free agency.

Clippers stun Warriors with historic comeback

AP
Los Angeles Clippers forward Montrezl Harrell (5) shoots under Golden State Warriors center Andrew Bogut during the second half of Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Oakland, Calif., Monday, April 15, 2019.

OAKLAND— Landry Shamet hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 16.5 seconds left, Stephen Curry couldn't answer on the other end, and the Los Angeles Clippers climbed back from a 31 points down to stun the Golden State Warriors, 135-131, on Monday night and even their first-round playoff series at one game apiece.

It was a historic comeback that topped a 29-point rally by the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1989 Western Conference semis over Seattle.

Curry scored 29 points and put the Warriors up 131-128 with 58 seconds left before Shamet's dagger on a night the two-time defending NBA champions lost DeMarcus Cousins to a leg injury in the first quarter.

Lou Williams tied the game on a jumper with 1:10 to play then Curry immediately answered. Williams scored again at 46 seconds and finished with 36 points and made 8 of 10 free throws in as the teams combined for 64 fouls and 76 free throws attempted.

Cousins injured his left quadriceps muscle in the first quarter and was done for the game, but Golden State's depth shined and the Warriors built a 23-point halftime lead they pushed to a 31-point advantage failing to hold off Los Angeles late.

Williams' jumper and three-point play with 5:34 left pulled the Clippers within 120-117 then he rebounded his own miss and scored the putback at the 5:05 mark and cut it to 121-119.

Kevin Durant drove through the paint past Montrezl Harrell for a one-handed jam and three-point play with 2:48 left, then went at Harrell the next time down and was whistled for the offensive foul. Durant fouled out with three straight offensive fouls.

Cousins was scheduled to undergo an MRI exam after the injury in just his second career playoff game following a nine-year wait. The big man returned in January from a nearly year-long absence following surgery for a torn left Achilles tendon.

His status for Game 3 on Thursday at Staples Center is in serious doubt.

Cousins hobbled to the locker room at the 8:09 mark of the first quarter. At the 8 1/2-minute mark Cousins stole the ball from Patrick Beverley in the back court and tried to retrieve the loose ball when went down in front of the Golden State bench and grabbed at his left quad.

LeBron James tweeted prayers for Cousins, who fouled out of Saturday's 121-104 Game 1 win with nine points, nine rebounds and four assists in 21 minutes.

Kevon Looney picked up the bulk of the extra minutes in Cousins' absence and scored a career-high 19 points making all six of his shots but the Warriors had their seven-game postseason winning streak snapped that dated to last year's run to a repeat championship. Durant had 21 points, five rebounds and five assists, Klay Thompson scored 17 points and Draymond Green 14 with nine assists.

Curry followed up a 38-point performance in Game 1 to give him the most 3s in postseason history with another nice showing but Golden State hurt itself with too many miscues.

The Warriors committed 21 turnovers in Game 1, then 22 more Monday—nine by Durant.

76ers 145, Nets 123

In Philadelphia, Ben Simmons got an earful from the Philly crowd.

With the same 76ers fans Simmons put on blast for booing in the playoff opener now going wild in Game 2, Simmons cupped a hand to his right ear just like Allen Iverson's signature move to spur the cheers even louder.

And he did it with Iverson rooting on the Sixers from courtside.

Simmons had 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds and the Philadelphia 76ers had an answer for the pesky Brooklyn Nets in a win to even their Eastern Conference playoff series Monday night.

"I was just trying to be me," Simmons said.

Simmons had a disastrous Game 1 , on the court (nine points) and from a PR perspective after he criticized fans for booing during a game the Sixers were never really in. He backtracked the next day at practice and never gave another 20,591 fans a chance to do anything but roar in approval in Game 2. Simmons flashed the All-Star form that helped lead the Sixers to 51 wins, and was aggressive from tipoff. He used his size and speed to attack the lane and scored 16 points in the half en route to his second career postseason triple-double.

The Sixers busted the game open with a 14-0 run to start the second half and then stretched the lead to 20 on a Simmons steal and fastbreak basket. With a packed house standing, Simmons got a massive ovation when he cupped his hand to his right ear just like Iverson did in his prime.

"I was thinking about the boos from the last game," Simmons said, smiling. "I have a lot of love for this city."

Iverson and former Sixers teammate Dikembe Mutombo attended the game and tossed T-shirts into the crowd.

Had Mutombo played in this one, the Nets surely would have received one of his signature finger wags.

It's official: Zion declares for draft

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)— Zion Williamson is leaving Duke after one high-flying season to enter the NBA draft.

Widely projected as the top overall pick in the June draft, the AP national player of the year announced his decision Monday.

The 6-foot-7, 285-pound Williamson captivated all of college basketball with his freakish, once-in-a-generation athleticism, his energy at both ends of the floor and his omnipresent charisma.

The Atlantic Coast Conference player and rookie of the year averaged 22.6 points—tied for the league lead with teammate RJ Barrett—and 8.9 rebounds. Along the way, he became the face of college basketball this season, routinely coming up with at least one highlight-reel play or show-stopping dunk per game.

His decision to turn pro came as no surprise. In fact, he spent the season greeting NBA chatter with a playful wink and a knowing nod.

He said it would be "dope" to play on a hypothetical New York Knicks team with Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant. Upon learning that LeBron James and Stephen Curry were talking about him during All-Star weekend, he responded that he's "hoping to be there competing against them next year."

During his lone college season, he helped the Blue Devils earn the No. 1 ranking in the final AP Top 25 and the top overall seed in the NCAA Tournament. Duke was knocked out by Michigan State in the East Regional final.

Now that he's headed to the NBA, one key subplot to follow is which sneaker company will land his endorsement.

In one of the signature moments of the season, Williamson blew out his left Nike shoe the PG 2.5, the signature shoe of Oklahoma City star Paul George — and sprained his right knee in the opening minute of what became a lopsided home loss to rival North Carolina.

The impact was immediate—Nike's stock price took a hit the next day, and the shoe company sent a team of representatives to campus to investigate. When Williamson returned roughly three weeks later for the ACC Tournament, he wore a pair of modified size-15 Nikes from the signature line of Irving, a Boston Celtics All-Star and former one-and-done player at Duke.

Williamson joins Cam Reddish and Barrett as classmates headed to the pros after one season. Point guard Tre Jones says he will return to school for his sophomore year.

Cavs to interview assistants Mosley, Howard

Meanwhile, the first two coaching candidates set to interview with the Cavaliers have no NBA head coaching experience.

That doesn't mean they're not qualified.

The Cavs have scheduled meetings this week with Dallas assistant Jamahl Mosley and Miami's Juwan Howard for the job, a person familiar with the team's plans told The Associated Press on Monday. The interviews are the only ones finalized so far, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is not publicly commenting during its search to hire Cleveland's fifth coach since 2013.

Mosley has some connections with the Cavs, spending four seasons as an assistant with the club before joining Dallas' staff in 2014. He just completed his fifth season with the Mavericks, who promoted him to defensive coordinator before last season. Mosley has risen through the coaching ranks and has extensive background in player development, an essential for the Cavs, who have a young roster.

After a 19-year NBA playing career, Howard joined Erik Spoelstra's Heat staff in 2013. He's also been mentioned as a possible candidate for the Los Angeles Lakers' vacancy. Howard interviewed for Detroit's opening last year.

The Cavs are looking for a new coach since parting last week with Larry Drew following a 19-win season. Drew took over in October after Tyronn Lue was fired and did all he could to keep the Cavs competitive amid numerous injuries and an ever-changing roster.

Pederson's HR in 9th rallies Dodgers past Reds

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joc Pederson hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth, giving the Los Angeles Dodgers a 4-3 comeback victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Monday night in Clayton Kershaw's season debut.

Raisel Iglesias (0-3) walked pinch-hitter David Freese leading off before Pederson homered over the right field wall, pointing into the Dodger dugout and thumping his chest as he left the box. The Reds had taken a 3-2 lead in the top of the inning on former teammate Matt Kemp's RBI single with two outs.

Kershaw then gave Los Angeles a lift, even though the three-time Cy Young Award winner didn't factor into the decision. Kershaw had been bothered by left shoulder inflammation in spring training. The left-hander allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings. He struck out six and walked none.

Closer Kenley Jansen (1-0) got the win.

Former Dodger Yasiel Puig made his presence felt immediately, hammering a two-run shot in the first off Kershaw that gave the Reds a 2-0 lead. Puig received a mix of boos and cheers.

The Dodgers lost NL home run leader Cody Bellinger in the third when he got drilled on the right kneecap by a 95 mph pitch from Luis Castillo.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Joc Pederson, right, celebrates with teammates as he scores after hitting a walk-off, two-run home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds, Monday, April 15, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Brewers 10, Cardinals 10

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich hit three homers, including a pair of three-run shots, and drove in a career-high seven runs to power the Brewers past the St. Louis Cardinals.

Yelich, the reigning NL MVP, hit his first three-run homer to cap a six-run second inning. After St. Louis tied it with three runs in the sixth, Yelich answered in the bottom half with a towering three-run blast to right off Mike Mayers (0-1).

Yelich capped his night with his eighth homer this season, going deep to lead off the eighth. He also lined out in the first and was walked intentionally in the fourth.

Junior Guerra (1-0) worked 1 2/3 innings for the victory. Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth after allowing Marcell Ozuna's sixth home run to open the inning.

Mets 7, Phillies 6, 11 innings

In Philadelphia, Juan Lagares scored from second base on Michael Conforto's hard grounder in the 11th inning and New York beat Philadelphia.

Lagares led off with an infield single against Pat Neshek (0-1), and Brandon Nimmo walked. Two outs later, Conforto hit a sharp grounder that first baseman Rhys Hoskins couldn't field for an error. The ball trickled to second baseman Cesar Hernandez and Lagares kept running, scoring easily because the throw was way off target.

Luis Avilan (1-0) pitched out of trouble in the 10th, stranding runners on second and third. Edwin Diaz struck out the side for his sixth save in six tries and his 16th in a row, dating to last season with Seattle.

Cubs 7, Marlins 2

In Miami, Willson Contreras hit his sixth homer, drove in three and reached base four times, and Chicago thawed out to beat Miami.

The temperature in Chicago was 33 when the Cubs' game Sunday against the Angels was snowed out, and it was 84 with the retractable roof open for the first pitch at Marlins Park.

Yu Darvish (1-2) struck out eight in a season-high 5 2/3 innings. He allowed two runs, lowering his ERA to 6.11. Three relievers completed the six-hitter.

Chicago scored three times in the first, and Javier Baez drove in a run with a two-out bloop double in the fifth off Trevor Richards (0-2), who allowed five runs in 4 2/3 innings.

Orioles 8, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Dwight Smith Jr. hooked a two-run homer into the first row of seats down the right field line and drove in four, leading Baltimore to victory in Boston's annual Patriots' Day game.

Baltimore salvaged a split of the four-game series. It had lost nine of its previous 11 games and was 4-21 in its last 25 against Boston. Chris Davis also hit a two-run homer—much further into the right field bleachers—and Renato Nunez had three hits with an RBI single.

Rangers 12, Angels 7

In Arlington, Joey Gallo homered and grounded a tiebreaking single to the vacant spot at shortstop against the shift, helping Texas beat Los Angeles in Mike Trout's return after missing three games with a groin injury.

Trout, the designated hitter while the club waits a little longer before putting the two-time AL MVP back in center field, went 0 for 2 with three walks.

Shin-Soo Choo, who had three hits, homered leading off the third for his first of the season. Asdrubal Cabrera matched Gallo for the team lead with his fifth homer , a two-run shot for an 11-4 lead in the sixth.

Blue Jays 5, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Teoscar Hernandez hit the go-ahead three-run homer in the eighth inning, giving Toronto a badly needed offensive boost with three hits in a victory over Minnesota.

After Martin Perez finished six innings in his first start for the Twins with only one run allowed and Ryne Harper struck out two batters in a perfect seventh, left-hander Adalberto Mejia was summoned for the eighth with all righties due up for the Blue Jays. Freddy Galvis greeted Mejia with a single, Randal Grichuk doubled for his third hit of the game, and Justin Smoak hit an RBI single. Then Hernandez sent an 0-2 slider from Mejia (0-1) into the second deck for a 5-3 lead.

White Sox 5, Royals 4

In Chicago, Welington Castillo atoned for an error with a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Chicago rallied to beat Kansas City.

Castillo's poor throw on Billy Hamilton's steal in the seventh helped set up Whit Merrifield's tiebreaking sacrifice fly. But Castillo came up big after Tim Anderson led off the eighth with a double against Brad Boxberger (0-3), sending an opposite-field drive to right for his first homer of the season.

MLB honors Jackie Robinson's centennial year

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Vin Scully joined the widow of Jackie Robinson to honor the player who broke baseball's color barrier during Robinson's centennial birthday celebration Monday night.

Scully greeted 96-year-old Rachel Robinson with a kiss after being introduced to the crowd, with Scully drawing the loudest cheers in a rare public appearance.

He stood behind Rachel with his hands holding her arms during the national anthem at Dodger Stadium. They were joined by Robinson's daughter, Sharon, and son, David, who linked arms with their mother as they walked on the field.

Robinson became the first black player in Major League Baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947. Scully began calling the team's games three years later, and the now-retired Hall of Fame announcer was friendly off the field with the man he called "Jack."

Only 7.7% of current MLB players are black, according to MLB.

"If not for Jackie Robinson, I probably wouldn't be here today playing baseball in the United States," said Cincinnati Reds outfielder Yasiel Puig, who came from Cuba to chase his pro aspirations. "That's the reason we respect this day."

Robinson, who died at age 53 in 1972, would have turned 100 on Jan. 31.

His No. 42 was worn by every major leaguer Monday. The number was retired around the league in 1997.

"For me, it's a big opportunity and responsibility that I hold very dear to my heart," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "To put this uniform on today and wear that number today, 42, it's always special."

Colorado Rockies manager Bud Black recalled reading about Robinson as a youngster.

"To this day I still read about him," Black said in San Diego. "What a pioneer. What a great example of a human being and what he meant to our country, and in the bigger picture, what he meant for all of us culturally, not only in baseball, but in society."

In Minnesota, Toronto Blue Jays manager Charlie Montoyo started his pregame media session at 3:42 p.m. CDT in honor of Robinson.

"That's probably one of the people in baseball I wish I would've met," he said.

At Dodger Stadium, the pregame ceremonies included 42 current and former Jackie Robinson Foundation scholars. Students from Cleveland Elementary, Washington Middle School and John Muir High—all attended by Robinson while growing up in nearby Pasadena—were on hand.

Robinson's No. 42 was cut into the center field grass.

The Robinson siblings each tossed out first pitches. David's was a strike to Roberts, while Sharon's bounced on its way to catcher Russell Martin.

Sharon Robinson works as MLB's education programming consultant.

The Dodgers hosted an invitation-only 100th birthday celebration in the Stadium Club featuring a sneak preview of the Jackie Robinson Museum, set to open in December in New York City.

Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen and former Dodger Matt Kemp, now with the Reds, came out to home plate to pose with Scully and the Robinson family before the game.

Mt. Carmel School fends off SCS

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School outlasted Saipan Community School in a back-and-forth affair, 28-20, in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League last Monday at the SCS' court.

After several lead changes in the first three quarters, the Knights managed to control the game in the fourth, thanks to their double-digit output. Mt. Carmel scored 10 points in the final canto and held SCS to 3 points and no field goal.

Gabby San Nicolas started things off for the Knights in the fourth quarter with his two consecutive fastbreak layups before Leo Naraja drilled two pull-up baskets to turn a shaky 18-17 lead to a 26-20 cushion. The Tsunamis' offense crumpled under Mount Carmel's defensive pressure, as they only mustered three free throws from Charlie McDonald. San Nicolas then iced the game after he picked Isaiah Aleksenko's pocket and glided to the rim for an easy layup.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Saipan Community School's Charlie McDonald, right, tries to muscle his way through the defense of Mt. Carmel School's Gabby San Nicolas during their middle school game in the CCOPSA caging last Monday at the SCS court in Susupe.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Mt. Carmel School's Raphael Galang, right, pulls up for a short jumper against Saipan Community School's Miles Borja during their middle school game in the CCOPSA caging last Monday at the SCS court in Susupe.

San Nicolas top-scored for MCS with his 15 points, while McDonald shouldered much of SCS' offense, as he finished with 14 markers.

With the win, MCS improved to a 4-1 card, while the Tsunamis absorbed their fourth loss in six games.

Meanwhile, Agape Christian School continued its streak in the boys division ater manhandling Seventh Day Adventist, 82-32.

The Torchbearers wasted no time, as they ran away with the game after a 16-4 run in the opening canto. ACS then shifted into overdrive, as it exploded for 29 points in the second period to bury the Guardians at the break, 45-11.

David Zheng and Hilton Jin finished with 19 and 16 points, respectively, to hand Agape a 5-0 lead, while Caleb Dai chipped in 12. While Agape rolled to its fifth straight victory, SDA has yet to secure a win after five games.

Over at the Navy Hill court, Grace Christian Academy dominated Northern Marianas International School, 35-14.

Ryan Daproza registered 12 points for the Eagles, while Lance Lerio and Justin Du added 6 apiece to help shoot down the Phoenix. Justin Mateo had 10 points for NMIS.

GCA earned its second straight victory and now holds a 3-2 card, while NMIS tumbled to a 1-4 record.

Meanwhile, Agape improved to a 3-0 slate after topping SDA, 38-22, in the girls division game.

Jenny Lin led the Lady Torchbearers with her 17 markers, while Elvira Zhang contributed 7, and Mei Ou and Lynn Zhao made 6 points apiece. Marielle Lopez dazzled for the Lady Guardians with her 20 points, while SDA's only other bucket came from Kimberly Bahn.

With the loss, the Lady Guardians dropped to a 1-3 record.

BOYS DIVISION
First Game

MCS 28—San Nicolas 15, Galang 5, Borja 4, Naraja 4.

SCS 20—McDonald 14, Borja 4 Aleksenko 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-5, 10-11, 18-17, 28-20

Second Game

ACS 82—Zheng 19, Jin 16, Dai 12, Tang 9, Liang 8, Bao 6, Qiu 6, Chen 2, Dang 2, He 2.

SDA 32—Jin 10, Son 7, K. Rechucher 7, Han 6, H. Rechucher 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-4, 45-11, 68-13, 82-32

Third Game

GCA 35—Daproza 12, Du 6, Lerio 6, Yumul 4, Woo 3, Adriatico 2, Alepuyo 2.

NMIS 14—Mateo 10, Valdoz 2, Balgos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-4, 21-8, 29-12, 35-14

GIRLS DIVISION

ACS 38—Lin 17, Zhang 7, Ou 6, Zhao 6, Wang 2.

SDA 22—Lopez 20, Bahn 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-4, 25-11, 29-13, 38-22

TWIN

From Page 28

half to win its season debut.

The final half of the match started with the opposing teams in a deadlock, 2-0. Claire Gozon and Nang Aldrich scored the two goals for Matansa-1, while Jolene Aguon and Hodge delivered for Topnotch.

Another goal from Gozon in the 37th minute broke the tie, while Matansa-1 went on to gain full control of the match when Aldrich also earned her second goal and Ratree Ditwiset got her first late in the game. Ditwiset made it a 4-2 advantage with her shot in the 46th minute, while Aldrich also found the back of the net two minutes later to complete Matansa-1's second-half assault. Topnotch failed to counter the rest of the way to drop its opener.

HWANG

From Page 28

Sam Ryu and Hyumin Cho and Alex Park this weekend. Cho and Park made it to the semifinals of the upper half of the draw following a 6-3, 7-5 triumph over Gang Min Kim and Jun Wang, while Lee and Ryu got an outright Final Four slot after drawing a bye in the opening week of the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-sanctioned tournament.

In the boys U18 singles, the Top 2 favorites, Robbie Schorr and Jimin Woo, delivered in the opener of the round-robin contest.

Woo defeated Vincent Tudela, 6-2, 6-2, while Schorr had a similar straight set victory over Andy Kim, 6-1, 6-0. Schorr and Woo will cross path this Sunday for the likely division-deciding match.

In other results, Kwon Lee and Yutaka Kadokura both downed Riku Takahashi to set up their duel for the boys U10 singles championship this weekend. Lee outclassed Takahashi last Saturday, 6-4, while Kadokura had an easier win over the latter last Sunday, 6-2.

In the boys U14 singles that also has a round-robin format, Gregoire and Kwon made it to the win column after dominating Cory Lee and Eubin Park in similar scores, 6-0, 6-0.

In the boys U12 singles, Wataru Kadokura and Nason Wessel booked the last two semis tickets in the division. Kadokura eliminated Kisuk Lee, 6-1, 4-6, 10-5, to march into the Final Four against the No. 1 seed Hwang, who drew a bye in the opening week for an automatic semis berth. No. 2 seed June Yu also got an outright semis entry and will collide against Wessel, who ousted Takeru Jim, 6-4, 6-1.

The semis cast in the boys U16 singles event has been completed, too after No. 1 Sean Lee, No. 2 Ryu, and No. 3 Andy Kim delivered, and Heo pulled off an upset last weekend.

Lee hammered Eugene Park, 6-0, 6-0, for a semis date with Kim, who knocked off Hyumin Cho, 6-0, 6-2. Ryu also took only two sets to beat Gang Min Kim, 6-0, 6-2, and arrange a Final Four showdown versus Heo, who stunned No. 4 Jun Wang, 6-4, 6-4.

GOLD

From Page 28

Isaiah Aleksenko led Tsunami Saipan's gold rush in Palau after collecting 13 gold medals (including relay races) in the U12 age group. Ashley Dangol, who also competed in the U12 division, earned 12 gold medals (including relay), while Aika Watanabe bagged nine golds (including relay) and three silvers in the over 13 division.

"Isaiah's result times were very high level, especially in the 400m freestyle, where his result was faster than the bronze medalist in the star division. Ashley never lost an event and it was really amazing. Aika also had an outstanding performance," Kimura said.

Also delivering for Tsunami Saipan were Shoko Litulumar and Xans Xu, who earned eight gold medals apiece and three silvers each in the U12 races, while Juhn Tenorio brought home four golds, four silvers, and one bronze in the over 13 events. Rounding out Tsunami Saipan's medal winners were Nelson Batallones (one gold), Kean Pajarillaga (one gold, seven silvers, and two bronzes), Asaka Litulumar (three silvers and two bronzes), and Joseph Zhang (one bronze).

"Shoko and Hans did not lose to swimmers from other countries, only to their teammates. Nelson is the top swimmer in the 200m butterfly, while Juhn is among the top sprinters in Micronesia, competing against Noel Keane and Jericho Maido of Palau and Kahleo Kihleng of Pohnpei. Joseph went to the finals of all breaststroke events and I am confident he will be stronger in upcoming competitions, while Asaka, the youngest in the star division, also has a lot of promise," the Tsunami Saipan head coach said.

"As for Kean, he was like the rising star at this meet. Not so many people from Micronesia know him because Kean has not won any medal/trophy in Saipan International Meet or Guam Championships. However, he had a great race with Isaiah and Hans in Palau and this time Micronesian swimmers and coaches recognized him," Kimura said.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan thanked Palau and the Palau Swimming Association for their hospitality and Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan and Dolphin Club Saipan for supporting the team's training sessions.

"PIC provides us with a daily practice venue after the Marpi pool closure, while Hyatt also accommodated us after Super Typhoon Yutu. Dolphin Club Saipan also helped us in the open water swim. Thank you very much. Without your cooperation and support, we could not win in Palau," Kimura said. "Thank you, too to Billy Brown, the head coach of Palau National Swimming Team and the meet director of this meet. Billy always thinks of Micronesian swimming—the Micronesian Swimming Championships is his idea."

Presidential Medal of Freedom to Woods

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Clippers stun Warriors with historic comeback

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Twin wins for Matansa; MPU prevails

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club won its pair of opening matches, while MP United Football Club also triumphed in the masters division of the 2019 Dove Spring Women's League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Matansa-2 drew first blood in the kick-off after outclassing Kanoa Football Club, 4-2, while Matansa-1 duplicated the former's season-opening win following a 5-2 triumph over Topnotch. MP United capped the night with a 2-1 victory against TanHoldings.

Amy Quito-Weiss powered MP United to the close win over TanHoldings after drilling the go-ahead in the 35th minute. She also scored MP United's other goal after lighting up the board in the eighth minute. Jessica Ortizo knocked in the equalizer in the 18th minute and TanHoldings failed to keep the standoff when Weiss made the dagger in the second half.

Meanwhile, in the first game, Tawnie Barcinas starred in Matansa-2's victory against Kanoa after recording a hat trick. She fired back-to-back goals in the opening half with her first registered in the third minute and the second seven minutes later. Barcinas then closed out for Matansa-2 in the 58th minute, while earlier in the 26th minute, Valerie Hofschneider gave the winning squad a 3-1 lead.

Kanoa's first goal came from Carli Sablan in the 21st minute, while the second and last was courtesy of Catherine Toves in the 46th.

In the second game, Matansa-1 caught fire in the second

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club's Rachel Nonato, right, kicks the ball, while TanHoldings FC's Victoria Camama tries to deflect it during the masters division game in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Gold rush for Tsunami Saipan

Hwang, Gregoire earn finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The unranked Anthony Gregoire and Juncheol Hwang clinched the first finals berth in the boys U16 doubles event in the 2019 DFS CNMI Junior Championships after stunning their seeded opponents last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Hwang and Gregoire swept No. 2 Isaac Heo and David Kwon, 6-4, 6-4, to take the finals berth at the lower half of the draw. The first finalists will face the winner of the semis match between the pairs of No. 1 Sean Lee and

See HWANG on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Juncheol Hwang receives a low return from Isaac Heo as they warm up for a doubles match in the 2019 DFS CNMI Junior Championships last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members pose with the medals they won in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held at the National Swimming Pool in Palau early this month.

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members lived up to high expectations after bringing home 39 gold medals from the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held at the National Swimming Pool in Palau early this month.

All 10 Tsunami Saipan swimmers who suited up for Team CNMI won medals to reach the goal head coach Hiro Kimura set for the group. Kimura pressed his swimmers entered in the future division (U12) to rule majority of their events, while those racing in the over 13 (star division) were expected to notch a couple of gold medals, too.

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